THE INDEPENDENT

HAMPAGNE BREAKS FOR SAG

INCLUDES FERRY CROSSING WITH YOUR CAR, HOTEL FOR TWO NIGHTS AND A FREE BOTTLE OF BUBBLY PAGE 16

Nato commits more troops amid fears for refugee 'human shields'

BY MARCUS TANNER

MATO IS sending 8,000 troops to cope with the apocalyptic refugee crisis in the Balkans, as fears grew that thousands of refugees herded back into Kosovo by the Serbs may end up being used as "human shields"

The alliance said Operation Allied Harbour, involving 14 states, would set up "sanctuaries" in Albania for the 300,000 Kosovars already in the country and for the tens of thousands more in neighbouring Macedonia. At Korce in Albania. 10.000 refugees deported on Tuesday night from the camp at Blace, Macedonia, were yesterday dumped in a sports stadium lacking the most basic facilities. Many were taken in by families in the town of 60,000, although they can barely afford to feed themselves. About 1,500 refugees were still in the stadium last night, huddled round

EADERS RAISE

Independent readers have responded to our Kosovo appeal with magnificent generosity. In the eight days since its launch: on 1 April you have sent £250,000 to the charities working together under the umbrella of the Disasters Emergency Committee.

Appeal details, page 4

campfires, sprawling on filthy blankets or sitting, stock-still and in shock, on numbered chairs. Some clutched Korans and prayed softly. They have nothing with them - what little they brought out of Kosovo was left in Macedonia.

Nato said it was still concerned for the whereabouts of at least 10,000 refugees deported from Blace, spirited out of the camp on buses in the middle of Tuesday night. The al-gance said it reserved its worst ars for the fate of the refugees forcibly returned to the interior of Kosovo from the Albanian frontier on Wednesday. "We do not know whether they are being driven back to their homes or elsewhere within Kosovo," Clare Short, Secretary of State for International Development, said in London.

"Our message to [Slobodan]



movement of people in whatever direction is unacceptable. He and his henchmen will be held fully responsible for any harm that comes to the Kosovars at the hands of the troops

and paramilitaries." Nato's secretary-general, Javier Solana, told Spanish radio that Mr Milosevic "could be trying to use people as human shields in case the alliance's military action is concentrated more on the ground".

Nato's fears about civilians being used as human shields Milosevic is that the forcible are based on experience of

Serb tactics in the 1992-95 war in Bosnia, where the Serbs tied UN peace-keepers to wooden posts to stop threatened West-

ern air strikes. In Luxembourg, European Union foreign ministers called for the Yugoslav President to face the UN war-crimes tribunal. Responsibility for the carnage in Kosovo "lies entirely with President Milnsevic and his regime", they said. "All those who planned, authorised and executed this brutal campaign of forced deportation. torture and murder should be

held personally accountable and be brought to justice."

The task facing Operation Alfied Harbour is vast: 500,000 Albanians have fled Kosovo since the Nato assault started. Aid agencies believe 100,000 have gone to West Europe or the US. Albania has taken in 303,000, Macedonia 117,000, Montenegro 59,000 and Bosnia 24,500. Yesterday Nato insisted the 8,000 troops do not form the advance guard for an invasion force to take oo the Serbs in Kosnvo. Most observers say that would require about 100,000 troops.

But Serbia, rattled by the bombings and the threat of an invasion, pressed on with a peace offensive, proclaiming an "eod of hostilities" in Kosovo and inviting all the ethnic Albanians to return to their looted and burnt shops and homes. "The Yugoslav government once again calls on all citizens of Kosovn not to leave their country and to live in harmooy

and co-operation," it said. The action president of Cyprus, Spyros Kyprianou, arrived in Belgrade to secure the release of three US soldiers

captured by the Serbs oo the Macedonian border, though Serbia's hardline deputy prime minister, Vojislav Seselj, said a quick release was "out of the

Serbia's desperation reflects Nato's increasing confidence. The alliance said that it may blow up Serbian TV, Mr Milosevic's mouthpiece and a vital component of the regime.

Further reports, pages 2-5 Gerald Segal, Review, page 4 Comics go to war, Review, page 10

Homebuyers will not | Lawrence gang fails benefit from rate cut

THE BANK of England an By DIANE COYLE nounced a quarter point reduc- Economics Editor tion in interest rates to 5.25 per cent yesterday. But the decision got a grudging welcome at best from business and unions as the European Central Bank upstaged it dramatically, cutting European interest rates by a half point to just 2.5 per cent.

Nor will most UK homemove. For the first time since October the big mortgage lenders did not follow its lead.

Their explanation for this pause was that, with six interest rate cuts in seven months, merce and Institute of Direc-

it was time to take account of the needs of savers. But analysts suggested lenders were taking advantage of the spring upturn in the housing market to boost their profit margins.

Yesterday's midday announcement by the Bank of buyers feel the benefit of the England was welcomed by British industry, but with the now-familiar demand for even lower loan rates. The Confederation of British Industry, the British Chambers of Com-

tors unanimously called for a further reduction towards con-

tinental levels of interest rates. John Monks, general secretary of the TUC. said: "Manufacturing needs more of the same and soon, if it's to be belped off the ropes."

However, City analysts warned UK rates could not fall much further, with perhaps noe more reduction next month. The British economy has shown signs of rapid recovery, while some of the biggest continental economies have slowed more than expected.

Business, page 18 | flagship, Tonight.

to agree on story

POLICE WERE studying televi- BY KATHY MARKS sion interviews with the five suspects in the Stephen Lawrence case last night after they contradicted each other about events surrounding the racist murder in 1993 and made new disclosures about their

The five - Neil Acourt, Gary Dobson and Luke Knight, all 23, and Jamie Acourt and David Norris, all 22 - broke their sixyear silence about Stephen's murder in interviews broadcast last night on the launch edition of ITV's new current affairs

Michael Mansfield QC, barrister for the Lawrences, said the interviews threw up "lines of inquiry which we would like pursued immediately".

The Acoust brothers told Martin Bashir, the interviewer, that they were at home together on the night of the murder in Eltham, south-east Londoo. But while Jamie Acourt said he did not find out about it until the next day, his brother Neil said he heard about it that night.

Norris, who has never given

an alibi, disclosed that he was probably" in Eltham on the night, at the house of his then girlfriend. He was the only one who did not live in Eltham, so the admission out him close to the

murder scene for the first time. Commenting on a surveillance video in which the suspects voiced extreme racist views, Mr Bashir, a British Asian, asked Norris: "Would you call me a Paki?" He replied: "Some people would call you a Paki, Martin."

Dobsoo described the five as rascals, lovable rogues". Lawrence 'stunt', page '

INSIDE THIS SECTION

Spowdonia railway Tourist railway through Snowdonia National Park got government approval Home P8

Civilians on patrol Jack Straw backed civilian street patrols Home P13

China visits US Chinese Prime Minister Zhu Rongji spent hours in talks at White House Foreign P15

Guru disciples split Teaching rift at Bhagwan commune in India Foreign P17

OREIGN 15-17, BUSINESS 18-2

Guscott injured Jeremy Guscott to miss Five Nations decider Sport P30

Rates cut again

Business P18

Interest rates were

slashed across Europe -

in Britain to 5.25 per cent

INSIDE THE REVIEW Donald Macintyre A vote for independent Scotland will rekindle

Yasmin Alibhai-Brown Experience Shakespeare in black and white Comment P4

ugly narrow nationalism

Comment P3

Mozzarella mobsters As John Gotti Jr goes down, is this the end for the Gambino family? Features P8

Food for thought Man evolved through eating up his veg Science P9



BACK PAGE



GARNET POINT



From the edge of the New World, a new, crisp, dry, rounded white.

Javier Solana, Nato secretary-general

"[Nato] is determined to stay united and to persist until we prevail."

> President **Bill Clinton**

WAR IN THE BALKANS "Nato's goals are clear. We | "It will be a long time are moving into a more aggressive air campaign"

William Cohen US Defense Secretary

before we run out of targets"

Air Marshal John Day, of Nato

"They seem now to have started returning the refugees by force"

Clare Short, International Development Secretary

ng it eruit silen "The refugees ... were told to return to their places of residence - whatever is left of those places" Doran Vienneau, of OSCE

Nato threat to hit Serb TV stations

THE ALLIANCE'S STRATEGY

BY KIM SENGUPTA

THE PROPAGANDA war over Kosovo turned into a genuine conflict yesterday, after Nato gave an ultimatum that Serbian radio and television stations would be attacked unless they offered six hours a day to Western news broadcasts.

Claiming the broadcasters in Belgrade were nothing hut President Slobodan Milosevic's instruments of propaganda and repression" which had "filled the air with lies" for years, the alliance threatened air strikes to silence them.

The only way the Yugoslav authorities would be able to save the stations would be by giving access to Western news day, said a Nato spokesman, Air Commodore David Wilby.

The move was immediately denounced by Belgrade and also caused consternation in some neutral countries.

Nato took advantage of the continuing good weather yesterday to make air strikes on more conventional enemy targets - hitting ground formations, bridges, barracks and, it power station, sports hall and is believed, tanks and armoured formations.

"We continue to systematically degrade and to diminish the military, paramilitary and special forces of the former Republic of Yugoslavia."

Almost 400 missions were flown over Yugoslavia and Kosovo and at least one SA6 surface-to-air missile was fired by the Serbs. A MiG 29 fighter took off but returned quickly to base without engaging Nato warplanes. RAF Harriers GR7s were involved in attacks on Serbian ground troops in Kosovo. The Pentagon confirmed an unmanned US reconnaissance plane had crashed.

Nato missiles struck in the heart of Belgrade while nearly for two blocks of three hours a a thousand people listened to rock music on the city's main bridge as a gesture of defiance.

Serbian television stated that a fuel depot and some homes were destroyed in a missile attack near Kraljevo. 100 miles south of Belgrade, Yugoslav media also said residential areas were hit when missiles landed on Cuprija, in the south of the country. A supermarket were damaged.

Air Commodore Wilby said Air Commodore Wilby said: all the targets hit had been of

nied that Nato had been redestruction witnessed by journalists yesterday in Pristina.

Nato faced fresh problems with its war strategy with the fear that refugees driven back into Kosovo will be used as human shields hy Serbian forces. The Nato secretarygeneral, Javier Solana, said one reason President Milosevic had shut the border crossings "could be because he is trying to use people as human shields in case the alliance's military action is concentrated more on the ground".

The alliance is already having difficulties in hitting ground targets. The Yugoslav army is hiding its tanks and heavy guns and also placing them in heavily populated areas.

At the same time, ethnic cleansing is continuing by soldiers and paramilitary units on foot, so air attacks run the risk of civilian casualties.

A Nato spokesman, Jamie Shea, said: "It's not enough for the Serb units to stop firing. A lot of the violence that we see going on in Kosovo is not being done hy tanks and artillery, it's

lead to the release of the three



Some of 14,000 Kosovo Albanians bused from the Macedonian border back to Albania, waiting to see where they will go next Dylan Martinez

being done hy paramilitary volved in fighting the Kosovo units or armed civilians. That's Liberation Army, Nato spokeswhy we have always made it clear that a ceasefire, as such,

is not sufficient." vic's declaration of a ceasefire, also signs that the KLA had Serbian forces were still in- mounted some counter-attacks. until Serbia complies with its ing with that in difficult

men claimed. There was evidence that "mop-up" operations were still being conducted in iso-Despite President Milose- lated areas by the Serbs and

pear that the Serbian units were continuing to adopt a "defensive and concealed posture".

Tony Blair yesterday repeated the pledge that Nato would continue military action

Nevertheless, it would ap-demand to halt its attack on Albanian civilians in Kosovo. He said: "We are in a situation where we are coping, dealing with those refugees who have crossed the border into Macedonia and Albania. We are cop-

circumstances but we're getting that job done ... And we're obviously concerned about what Milosevic's people may be doing to them, as to whether they are being fed properly, looked after properly; so that's our main point of concern."

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Clare Comment

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US will not do ceasefire deal

THE MISSION of Spyros Kyprianou, acting president of Cyprus, to secure the release in Yugoslav captivity hit snags almost before it started yesterday as officials in Washington and Belgrade played down expectations that the men would be treed.

Even before his plane had received clearance for the flight Milosevic, that even if be

Postcode:

MISSING SERVICEMEN By MARY DEJEVSKY in Washington

would not agree a ceasefire in return for their release and said Mr Kyprianou decided to rethere could be no preconditions. main in Belgrade overnight in Mr Kyprianou's arrival in the hope of meeting Mr Milosevic today. A senior Greek Belgrade was accompanied by government official was quotleaks from sources "close to the Yugoslav President", Slohodan ed as saying: "The latest is that Mr Kyprianou will meet Mr Milosevic on Friday to discuss humanitarian issues that could

any release of the soldiers". soldiers." But he said that about its earlier insistence that this could change. The servicemen, part of a detachment donian side of the border. of 350 US soldiers stationed in Macedonia, had been on a rou- Belgrade television shortly tine patrol on the horder with after their capture and ap-Kosovo when they were taken peared to have been beaten. prisoner

that they were abducted, hut authorities say that they are has become increasingly vague being well treated, but accord-

they were clearly on the Mace-

The men were shown on Since then there have been no The Pentagon maintains more pictures. The Yugoslav

LIGHTING UP

ing to US officials have ignored requests for a visit from a Red Cross representative.

ic contacts over their fate, through Swedish diplomats who are representing US interests in Belgrade.

So far as is known, they are the only Nato troops to be in Yugoslav hands. A US pilot whose F-117 "Stealth" aircraft was shot down on the second night of the Nato strikes was rescued within six hours of ejecting.

YESTERDAY

EXTREMES

BRIEFING: DAY 16

■ Nato air strikes continued around the clock against a wide range of targets.

Nato planes carried out nearly 400 sortles including

an attack on a military convoy on a road in Kosovo. ■ In the past 24 hours the UK has committed itself to supply 14 emergency health kits to Nato and the World Health Organisation in Macedonia

■ The UK has in the past day set up 150 tents and delivered 25 pallets of water, 15 pallets of rations, 5,000 loaves of hread and 2,000 blankets. A relief flight from RAF Lyneham to Tirana and

Skopje yesterday delivered 13 tons of equipment, including sleeping bags.

■ In total 30 relief aircraft have left the UK since 30

March, carrying 265 tons of supplies

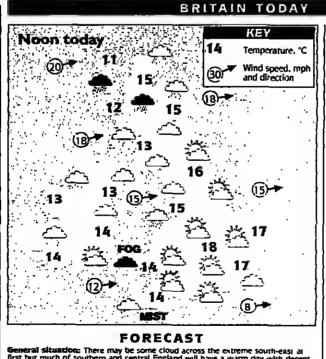
Yesterday the RAF deployed further medical personnel to the humanitarian relief operation.

to Belgrade - almost a full day agreed to meet Mr Kyprianou, later than planned - the US which was by no means guarstated categorically that it anteed, "there will not be *THE INDEPENDENT INTERNATIONAL The Independent International. the weekly newspaper, is packed full of international and British news, comment, features and sport. Containing the pick-of-theweek from The Independent and Independent on Sunday, it is available anywhere in the world by subscription via air mail. Buy the gift of an annual subscription for friends or family abroad, and we will also send them a free copy of the book Shadows of Brightness, a collection of photographs of Kenya. Australia (All costs include postage and packaging) New Zealand, Fiji, PNG, Pacific Island Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam Africa, Hong Kong, Middle East, India, China, Japan, USA, Canada, South America Europe £75 fenclose my cheque, made payable to 'Independent Newspapers (UK)'. OR please debit my credit card for: £ Credit card type: Visa/Mastercard; فالبات المحاك المحاكم المحاك Address of card holder: Please send 'The Independent International' and book to: Country:

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General situation: There may be some cloud across the extreme south-east at first but much of southern and central England will have a warm day with decent sunny spells. Southern and western coasts of England and Wales may see some mist and fog and it will be coder with a more general build-up of cloud his afternoon. Northern ireland will be largely cloudy with outbreaks of light rain and drizzle. Sociation will have some heavier rain, although the far north will eventually brighten and turn more showery.

London, SE & Cane S England, E Anglia, E England: Early cloud will break to allow sunny spells to develop. A light westerly wind. Man temp 16-19C (61-66F). Midlands: Dry and warm with sunny spells, although cloud may thicken larer A light westerly wind. Max temp 17-19C (63-66F). Channel Is, NW & SW England, Wales, Lake Dist, Isle of Man: Warm sunny spells inland. Patches of mist and fog on the coast and more generally cloudy with spots of drizzle this afternoon. A light westerly wind. Max temp 14-17C [57-63F].

Cent N & NE England: Some warm sunny spells this morning and it should stay largely dry but cloud will gradually build this afternoon. A light westerly wind.

May temp 16-19C (61-66F). NE & NW Scotland, Aberdeen, N & W Isles: Outbreaks of rain, some heavy but becoming brighter and more showery from the north. A moderate to fresh westerly wind. Max temp 12-15C (54-59F): cooler on coasts.

SE & SW Scotland, Edinburgh, Glasgow: A cloudy day with rain at times, heavilest in the west. A moderare south-westerly wind. Max remp 13-16C (55-61F) N Ireland: Cloudy with rain at times. A moderate south-westerly wind. Max remp 12-15C (54-59F).

OUTLOOK

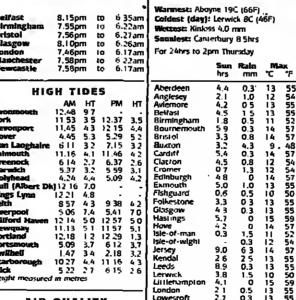
Rain will spread into northern England and Wales tomorrow to leave Scotland and Northern Ireland brighter but colder with showers. Southern England will remain dry with warm sunny spells, Sunday will be predominantly dry and bright, although some rain will edge into the far north.

TRA.
London: A12 Green Man Roundabout,
Leytonstone. Major readworks on now
M11 link road, Uniti 31st December.
Bristol: M5 J18-19. Major Roadworks on
Avonnouth Bridge. Uniti 23rd June 2001
Warwickshire: M42 Between J10 Tarmworth
services and J9 Sutton Coldfield. Roadworks
and contralliow. Uniti 23rd April.
South Yor-1kine: M1 Between J34 Tinsley
Vladuct (A6109) 8. J34 Tinsley Vladuct
(A6178). Sheffield. Carnageway is reduced
to two lanes southbound. Uniti 21st
November 2000.

inbound. Diversions in place. Until 1st June. Co.Antrim: A1 Kingsway, Ournmurey Roadworks, various lane restrictions. Until httadments, various isn't restriction, one 1st August.

Derbyshire: A6 Between Derby Southern Bypass (A50) and Shardlow Road round-about East of Alvaston, Contrallow for work

about, East of Anaston, Combattow for work on new ASO, Until 15th October, AA Roadwatcht Call 0336 401777 for the latest local and national traffic news, Source: The Automobile Association, Calls



AIR QUALITY SUN & MOON

WEATHERLINE followed by the two digits for your area, Source: The Met. Office. Calls charged at 50p per min fine VAT)



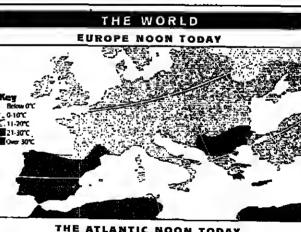
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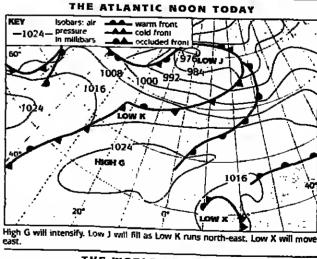
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SHINE... METEOROLOGICAL experts are predicting a repeat of the violent hurricanes that caused

so much damage last year. The latest forecast from Colorado State University for the Atlantic-Caribbean storm season, which runs from

1 June to 30 November, warns of 14 tropical storms, nine of them growing to hurricane strength. Four of the nine will become intense, with wind speeds of at least 110 mph.





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TODAY

WAR IN THE BALKANS

3ees ... Were told to their places of Truth is nneau, of OSCE dying in the ruins of silent capital

IF THERE are lies, damned ies and statistics, the Kosovo war has now moved into damned lies. Just a week ago, we had the Serbs claiming that the Albanians - far from being "ethnically cleansed" - were setting fire to their own homes. Now we have Nato claiming that the Serbs of Pristina - far m being bombed by Nato ere hlowing up their own homes. In the centre of this empty, silent city, you might be forgiven for thinking that the world had gone mad.

The Serbs are spending much of their time insisting that the tens of thousands of Albanians who have palpably disappeared from the capital of Cosovo are merely hiding from Nato bombs. In which case, why is every house empty, every Albanian street deserted, every Albanian shop smashed and plundered and daubed with Serb graffiti?

Why did the fearful group of non-Serb refugees we saw at the disused railway tracks shamble in exhaustion and fear through the city, a mass of filthy clothes and old sacks and haggard faces, a live re-enactment of Schindler's List? Why did lights still burn in broken the wind and why were the contents of the Albanian chemist's shop strewn over the pave.

point on the edge of town? hombed. Why?"
Then we have Nato's brutal A few hours later, Air Comleast 10 civilians, it destroyed



ROBERT FISK IN PRISTINA

had totally erased a singlestorey house. At least two craters were 30 feet deep and the bomb that hit the post office had brought part of the building crashing to the ground. When I talked to Serbs who live in the centre of Pristina - alone and in many cases almost too angry to speak to a citizen of a Nato country - they all gave de-tailed descriptions of the night of air raids.

When Valentina Jovanovic came to the door of her house in the capital, she was still in a state of shock, drawing heavily on a cigarette, her fingers shaking, as frightened of her own voice as she was angry to find an Englishman outside her home. "They bombed first homes and front doors bang in at 11 o'clock. Then they came back at 1 o'clock. Then again at. three this morning. They bombed and bombed and

air raid on Tuesday night and . modore David Wilby told a Nato Weddesday morning. It killed at briefing that in Pristina "Nato has certainly not caused the the post office, the largest bank widespread and random damin town and a whole row of civil-age, which we believe has been ian homes. One bomb crater caused by Serb forces".



But while it is true that - at the start of its air bombardment Nato attacked exclusively military targets, the American-European alliance is now hitting civilians. And I believe that Valentina Jovanovic was telling me the truth in Pristina.

I do not believe Air Commodore

Wilby was telling us the truth

in Brussels.

Only aerial bombing could have pulverised the centre of the city in so shocking a way. Only missiles or air-fired ordnance could have gouged such craters into the ruins. No Serb - however devious - could have created this disgraceful scene In just a few hours, priming the entire Serb population of the area to tell every journalist an

identical story. Either Nato made a terrible perhaps by its Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) guerrilla allies, it committed a terrible deed. Nn wonder the Serbs who hrought journalists to Kosovo to see the ruins hut allowed them to walk unaccompanied through this part of the town - were so willing to have this shameful scene filmed,

If ever the Serbs needed to find a reason for the Albanian exodus - other than the real reason which was no doubt murder and intimidation and dispossession - Nato has now provided them with it. "The loyal Albanians stayed, only the disloyal left," a middleaged man explained on the Corso near the Grand Hotel in Pristma A likely story. Who, in heav-

en's name, are the loyal Albamistake in Pristina or, egged on nians? The old man I found with rel glinting in the late afternoon

a battered typewriter and a sun gave the game away. In one head encased in that Russian-bag of dirty clothes hobbling small village, the Yugoslav army style rubber helmet so familiar past the post office, mumbling his desire to go to Skopje? The ghostly occupants of all those burned homes east of Pristina? The phantom Albanians who, according to Serb city officials, will have to wait a few days to collect their pensions now that Nato has destroyed a local wel-

fare office? What Albanian would ever choose to return here now? On the way to Pristing, amid the fields of vines and cherry trees and the blossom-smothered farmyards, the Serb tanks were hard to see. It took me all of five seconds to spot a T-72 in a farm scarcely 20 feet from me, so well had the hay and branches been piled around the tracks and hull. Only the end of the gun bar-

had parked its trucks beside cottages, on lawns, alongside barns, within the first trees of a great forest. Every house has its tank, I thought.

And I dnubted very much if the Nato pilots were going to winkle this lot out. In one great valley, it was only when I was travelling beside a river that I saw the anti-aircraft guns dug in beside the banks, barrels on a flat trajectory, camouflage netting pulled over ammunition bunkers. This was not an army that was ready to die. Yet by the time we reached Pristina, there was little to hide.

We overtook two T-72 tanks thrashing down the highway in clouds of brown dust past hurned-out homes and shops, their crews - each man with his

from every Soviet war film - giving us the three-fingered Serb victory sign. Truck and jeeps and armoured vehicles hummed along the highway. The troops waved and shouted and, at one hillside bar where

a platoon sat in the late afternoon drinking, a soldier pulled the opener on a beer can and sprayed the contents in a circle against the sunlight. We have won, the message meant. We have conquered. Kosovo is But is it? Every night, the

came back. Every night there was shooting. Over all of this scene of frightening desolation - the very emptiness a terrible witness to the suffering of the Albanians - hung thick clouds of black smoke. Nato had totally destroyed the oil plant nutside Pristina. When I passed it, the 40-foot flames were sn bright they hurt my eyes. A direct hit. Like the Nato bombs that hit

The Serb version of a direct

the very centre of Pristine.

hit - and the exodus of Pristina's Albanian population is just that - is awesome and wicked. And Nato has - so far - killed only a fraction of the civilians whom the Serbs have moved down. But it is now increasing its cull; the bombing of civilian homes at Aleksinae has now cost seven lives, Pristina's toll local Serbs told us, the KLA may reach twelve if two of the seriously wounded die. As the very same Air Commodore Wilby intoned a few days ago. "this is not a game of cricket." All too true - because there are fewer rules every day.



A Serbian woman crying yesterday in a Pristina cemetery hit by Nato on Wednesday in air strikes heavier than any before on the Kosovo capital Vuk Brankovic

'You've won free trip in exchange for your home'

WEDNESDAY MORNING and I'm still in Pristina. It's just after 8am and from the window I can hear pistol shots. They have started the round-ups.

I'm scared. They're drawing

I decide to flee. I leave the room where I have spent the past 15 days. I have no news of e friend who put me up, nether he has been captured

I take refuge in various homes but the Serbs continue house-to-house searches. It's not just the military, there are the special police, the paramilitary squads, Arkan's men. They are easily identifiable, they wear blue military rig and a black wool hat. They are cruel, and seem to enjoy terrifying these poor people who no longer have anything, not even an identity. There are also gyp-sies: looting and pillaging. They're brutal and arrogant. I have seen them sacking shops and torching the houses of eth-

The gunfire continues. I am currounded. I realise the only way to escape Pristina is to join the crowd that the Serbs are pushing towards the station. It's a deportation. We hope the des-

tination will be Skopje. My clothes are similar to those of the fleeing Kosovars, as are my features. I take refuge amid these hundreds of men, women and children who have run out of tears. We share one hope; that the soldiers put us on to a train and take us across the border.

During this sad procession, I meet the Rugova family. They are no relation to Ibrahim, the moderate political leader - I know he is alive, but there has been no news of his two sons for of a car. The Serb tank then days. They know that by help-ing me they are risking their hives. But they do it anyway and I am grateful. I confess my identity and explain that I stayed behind in Pristina to recount what was happening. an irresponsible back looking

FLEEING PRISTINA BY ANTONIO RUSSO in Skopje

Antonio Russo, of Italy's Radio Radicale, was the last Western journalist to remain in Pristina. He escaped by disguising himself as an ethnic Albanian refugee



A boy surveys the bomb damage in Pristina

This last round-up has turned Pristina into a ghost town. Thousands of people are scrambling down the hills. They have nothing but the odd blan-ket and pitiful bits and pieces m plastic bags. There are lots of children. Finally we arrive in the piazza near the station. There is hardly any food; what there is goes to the elderly and the young. Water is rationed. We remain there, huddled together, with the soldiers watching. Some taunt us. "You have won a free train trip in exchange for your homes," they say. No one reacts. In recent days, an el-derly couple were killed at Velania - the neighbourhood where Ibrahim Rugova lived. They slaughtered them because they did not want to leave their house. At Mantnica three people were killed. The body of one was put in the boot

smashed it against the wall. I know that there has been a massacre at Pec and some 200 people killed. The news comes from local sources that I trust: They say the Serbs They understand that I am not burn the bodies so as not to leave any trace. And in a country without any birth and death I can't see the position of the naily I light a cigarette.

dragged the car along and

registers, any future check to

determine the number of dead

will be impossible.

It's getting dark and I realise we will be spending the night here. Shortly after 9pm someone approaches, shouting: "Have you got any medicine? There are four women who have given birth." The women, and their newborn, are loaded on to a trunk. No one can tell us where they are being taken. The night seems neverending. We try to comfort one another. Some despair as they think of the violence they've suffered, the houses destroyed. What I see is a people who no longer have a country.

At 6am a train arrives. We don't know what our destination is - we hope they take us to Skopje - but we all rush towards the 21 carriages. Its a free-forall, there's not room for everyone. I get on board. We are jammed in like sardines but there is a great sense of solidarity. I realise that other similar trains have left from here; the journeys into exile have a fixed rhythm. They tell us that

two more will arrive tomorrow. After two hours, finally, we are moving. From the windows

Serb military. The road is marked by burning houses and columns of refugees walking towards the border. There are thnusands of them. Behind me is Pristina, the city Where I have spent the past six months. The military and the militia have managed to purge almost all the ethnic Albanian Kosovars.

Unfortunately the bombardaments have been ineffective. The bombs have hit useless targets. The Serbs had massed arms and tanks in the courtvard of the hospital and beneath the stadium - two places full of people who double as human shields. No one will drop a bomb on the hospital. One consolation: the bombs haven't caused civilan casualties.

After a couple of hnuse we are at the border with Macedonia "The nightmare is over," I think I know my colleagues of Radin Radicale will be worried. I imagine that even the Italian emhassy in Belgrade is concerned. In the past seven days, from when the nther Western journalists left, never has so much time passed without me getting in touch.

"The frontier is closed," someone tells us. The train stops in front of a huge factory. A Serb soldier issues the orders. "Men only off the train." We are just a few metres from Macedonia, we know that there are journalists there. They surely wouldn't be mad enough

We pretend not to understand. We ask the women to get off. The Serbs get angry and make them get back on board. We don't know what would have been our fate if we had climbed

A few minutes pass, it seems interminable. "Everyone off," they order. This time we obey. They tell us to get in line. We cross the border on foot. I walk for a couple of hundred metres. Then I see an Italian photographer from the ANSA news agency. I ask for help. I have nothing, just my passport. He accompanies me to Skopje. Fi-



Force of 8,000 is sent into Albania

NATO TROOPS

BY KIM SENGUPTA

NATO ANNOUNCED it is send- donia, which have received the ing 8,000 troops to the Balkans to aid the flood of refugees from Kosovo. The alliance said Operation Allied Harbour will be a co-ordinated military exercise involving 14 countries, controlled by a "mobile force land headquarters" based in The project, due to atart by

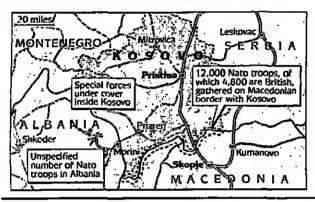
the beginning of next week, was put together after an emermoving refugees from camps. gency meeting of the allied governments. Food, medicine, tents and other emergency supplies will be distributed to the thousands of Kosovars ritory, suspecting that they pouring into Albania while the troops will be used to construct "sanctuaries" for them to stay in. The troops will be sent as Allied Command Europe Mobile Force Land (ACE). Based at as a "Trojan horse" for a land Heidelberg, Germany, it is comwar in Kosovo. At present, there are 12,000 manded by British Major General John Reith, formerly of The Parachute Regiment. The Ministry of Defence said it was

move as crucial to ease the hurernments of Albania and Mace-

majority of the exodus. The safe havens in Albania, it is hoped, will syphon off some of the Kosovars now in Macedonia. The Slav dominated government there is unsympathetic to its own Albanian minority and increasingly hostile to Albanian refugees from Kosovo. Its officials and police have been accused of forcibly

The Macedonian government is also becoming hostile to the idea of allowing any more Nato troops on to its terwould play a key part in a Serbs in Kosovo. Nato officials yesterday denied that Allied Harbour troops would be used

allied troops, of whom 4,800 are British, in Macedonia. There is a small, unspecified number of "speculation" that British para- allied troops in Albania and at troopers would be involved in the northern Greek port of Thessaloniki, the latter for lo-Western strategists see the gistical support. In addition there are special forces deden being placed on the poor tachments from Nato counand politically unstable gov- tries, incuding the SAS, inside





At the Macedonian border, 65-year-old Hysnije Cerkine is comforted by Captain Janet Gallaher, a British Army doctor

y rescues elderly refugees

SHE IS is a tired, pale, woman from a small village 30 miles from Pristina. Yesterday Hysnije Cerkine she became a footnote to the ongoing tragedy of Kosovo's refugees when she was the last person to be evacuated from the hellish refugee camp at Blace on the Macedonian border.

Mrs Cerkine, 65, and 25 other sick or elderly people, were saved by the British Army, which cut through red tape to take them to its field bospital at the main refugee camp at Brazde.

Mrs Cerkine was too weak to speak, but the relief was ohvious on her face as she was finally taken to a place that could offer ber proper care. She had been stuck at the makeshift camp at Blace for 10 days, after being forced from her home by

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users and emergencies.

the Serbs. She soon fell ill and was taken to a medical tent run by aid workers. When the main camp at Blace was hrutally emptied of tens of thousands of refugees by the Macedonian authorities on Tuesday night, Mrs Cerkine and the other sick and elderly were left behind.

One of them died at dawn yesterday. No one even knew ber name. Yesterday, after the plight of the two dozen re- sloner for Refugees [UNHCR] maining people was highlighted by The Independent, Army medics collected them in a series of ambulance runs.

Cutting through the regulations that have kept Nato

out. "Let's get these people out of here," said Brigadier Tim Cross, when he was informed of the situation. "Let's just get on with it."

AID EFFORT

By ANDREW BUNCOMBE in Skopie

Nicola Boyle, medical co-ordinator with the International Medical Corps, the ald group that had been trying to Macedonian capital, Skopje. help the stranded refugees, said: "We have been telling the United Nations High Commisabout this for days but they have not done anything. The organisation of this entire bumanitarian effort is all over

Yesterday it emerged that troops away from the border, some of the 30,000 refugees the medics stretchered them whom aid agencies feared had Macedonians colluded with the

"disappeared" after the evacuation of Blace had now been accounted for. Macedonia, criticised for the way it acted without consultation, sald it had hused 5,500 refugees to Greece. 10,000 to Albania and the remainder to camps near the

A Nato spokesman yester-day said the alliance was still trying to establish the whereabouts of at least 10,000. "In the early days [of the crisis] the Macedonians could do what they wanted but because attention is now on them, I don't think they'll do something like

There is evidence that the

Serbs in their harsh treatment of the Albanian refugees. An

suspected of links to the Koso-

vo Liberation Army.

official with the Macedonian three American prisoners of war. government privately admit-4.30pm ted an informal "deal" was struck between the Serb and Macedonian border police to force back into Kosovo anyone

"I suspect there was collusion. There was a case when there was co-operation to try and capture people who were KLA members. If they were found they were sent back." He added: "The government is very sensitive about the balance in this country. It does not want Macedonia full of Albanians because then they would have more power. If it had not been for the international community, Macedonia would have let these people die."

Wednesday 7 April 11.00pm An unmanned US army reconnaissance aircraft

is shot down over

Yugoslavia Thursday 8 April

Nath hnmhs targets across Serbia. Missiles hit a former army building in the heart of Belgrade.

There are explosions in the nutskirts of Kraljevo, in the villages nf Ladjevci and Vitanovci near Kraljevo, where a fuel depot is destroyed. 8.00am

Heavy explosinns rock Pristina. 12.30pm Tanjug news agency

reports that at least three people have been killed after Natn strike at 4am local time nn a skl resort south nf Belgrade. Nato announces It will

send 8,000 troops to Albania to provide "military support" in the humanitarian aid effort. French Defence Minister, Alain Richard. says Nato air strikes have shattered the Yugoslav military

its ability to reinforce its troops in Kosovo. Spyros Kypnannu, Speaker of the Cypnint parliament, arrives in Belgrade in try in secure the release of

command and reduced

Serbian security forces say they are ending an nffensive against "terrorist" ethnic Albanian guerrillas and peace has been restrired in Knsovn.

Yuguslavia's Information Minister says there will be same "good news" cancerning the three captured American 6.15pm

Slovenia, which broke

away from Yugoslavia in

1991, says it will take in

1,600 refugees fleeing

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Independent Kosovo 'could challenge Israeli interests'

ARIEL SHARON, the Israeli Foreign Minister, has a unique view of the threat in the Balkans. It is not of a triumphant Serbia expelling Kosovars. It is that the present crisis will end with an independent Kosovo becoming part of a greater Albania and "a focus for extremist Islamic terror that will spread

in Europe™. Quite how the stumbling columns of Kosovan refugees will become a threat to anybody he does not explain. But Mr Sharon's belief, expressed with increasing vigour over the last two weeks to the amazement of the United States and the embarrassment of his own government, is that "a big bloc of Islamic states" may be established in Europe.

The office of Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, retary of State, later today.

says the Foreign Minister was "expressing his private views

only". Israel is to take in 100 Kosovan refugees, has sent a 100-bed field hospital to Macedonia and last night there was an open-air rally in Tel Aviv to collect money for the victims of ethnic cleansing in Kosovo.

It will not be enough to calm American irritation and will further cool relations between Israel and Washington, already frosty because of Israel's non-implementation of the US-brokered accords with the Palestinians signed last year. Mr Sharon may have a chance to find this out for himself when be meets Madeleine Albright, the US Sec-

VIEW FROM JERUSALEM There are obvious reasons

for Israel's luke-warm support for the Nato action. There is historic sympathy for the Serbs because of their role in the Second World War, a sense that Israel should not take sides in age-old Balkan conflicts and a fear that one day foreign intervention against sovereign states might

be directed against Israel. Mr Sharon's policies, though often maverick, are often strategically astute. In this case his motive is probably a wish to cultivate Russia, whose Foreign Minister is to visit next week for the third time in a month. In an coming back to the Middle

Israel wants Russia to stop helping Iran to huild missiles and to keep open communications between the large Jewish community remaining in Russia and Israel. If Yevgeny Primakov, the Russian Prime Minister, offered to scale down the transfer of missile technology to Iran it would be a boost to Mr Netanyahu before

the Israeli election on 17 May. Russia has expressed "satisfaction" at Mr Sharon's reservations over Nato action. It wants a relaxation of pressure from Jewish lobbying groups on the US Congress to force the administration to impose sanctions on Moscow. Mr Netanyahu interview with Israeli radio be has already asked the US to sussaid: "It's important to look pend for six months plans to inforward and see that Russia is crease sanctions on Russia.

Aid fund hits £6.4m as 4,000 donors ring each hour

FUNDS RAISED by a national television appeal to help the Kosovo refugees have risen to £6.4m, organisers said yesterday. The money has been gathered in just 48 hours after the appeal was launched by the television presenter Jill Dando and the actress Juliet Stevenson with broadcasts on Tuesday night.

A spokeswoman for the Disasters Emergency Committee of 12 leading charities that set up the appeal said yesterday: "The total is based on 217,000 phone calls, 19,735 of which came in today, from midnight to 4.30pm. There have been an average of 4,000 calls an hour overall and an average donation per call of £31. We are delighted with the support from the public, and hope they will continue to support us." Donors have

*THE INDEPENDENT KOSOVO APPEAL

been told that £5 will huy a blanket, £10 a bygiene pack, £30 will keep a family fed for

a month - and £250 will buy a tent to house several families. The Independent launched the DEC appeal with its readers last week, prompting a massive response. Readers have so far pledged more than HOW TO MAKE A DONATION

Independent Kosovo Appeal Disasters Emergency Committee PO Box 2710

London W1N 5AD Cheques payable to KOSOVO APPEAL

Call: 0990 22 22 33 to make a telephoned credit card donation

£150,000 through 1.500 letters and 4,500 calls to the appeal hotline.

The joint appeal has been organised on hehalf of the British Red Cross, Christian Aid. Cafod, Care International UK, Children's Aid Direct, Concern Worldwide, Help The

Aged, Merlin, Oxfam, Save

The Children, Tearfund and World Vision - to prevent the public being bombarded with separate appeals. Charity heads said the scale of the tragedy was such that a carefully planned joint effort was needed to make sure the aid got to the people who most needed it as soon as possible:

Donations can be made to the appeal on 0870-606 0900 or 0990 222233. Donations can also be sent to Disasters Emergency Committee Kosovo Appeal, PO Box 999, London, EC4A 9AA. Cash can also be given at banks, building societies and post offices. Cheques should be made payable to the Kosovo Crisis Appeal. Updates on the appeal can be obtained via ITV Teletext page 520, or the DEC Internet site (www.dec.org.uk). GARY FINN

NDEPENDENT,

TIMETABLE DAY 16

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Thursday 8 April 12.30am

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WAR IN THE BALKANS Nato's big test: If the air war fails, is there a will to send in ground troops?

ter of if, but when they go in. For With each image of suffering in There are no easy answers. on Serb installations by air of how the war must end grows strikes, and despite the opaque starker. Once a ceasefire would offers emanating from Bel- have done; now all Serb forces grade, the plight of the refugees and the displaced deepens.

In this war it launched for humanitarian reasons, the West to Kosovo, Even as the bombhas a seemingly inescapable ing started, a deal with Slobomoral obligation to send in ground troops to provide the de- possible. Now there can be no fiverance for the Kosovo Alba-

all the damage being inflicted the Balkans, the West's vision must be removed from Kosovo and not merely removed but eliminated as a military threat dan Milosevic still seemed compromise. He is to be over-

IT IS, surely, no longer a mat- its bombs could not deliver. thrown. The question is, how?

Until a few days ago governments in London, Washington and Paris assumed that whatever the revulsion at the treatment of the ethnic Albanians, public opinion would not tolerate the casualties certain in a land war. That assumption may no longer be true. But thus far, ever-greater use of air power has been the chosen means. The targets are not come and - ideally - overonly purely military; they in-

ANALYSIS BY RUPERT CORNWELL

clude refineries, fuel depots, railways and bridges - soon radio and television facilities the very sinews of a functioning country.

Nato commanders continue to bope this strategy will work, and say Tuesday's truce offer suggests Mr Milosevic is buckling. But the latest events suggest that may be just an- render Kosovo without a fight

end are ruled out: sealing borders, laying waste territory, the use of human shields to preother case of wishful thinking. vent attacks on Serb targets.

The Milosevic mind may be Like a desperate poker playhard to fathom but three er, be keeps raising the stakes. strands run through it. One is If he cannot save himself by a the overriding goal of retaining deal, then there will not be a power. Another is his constant Kosovo worth saving either. tapping of Serb nationalism. Conceivably, a ground war The last is a willingness to do could even lead to a Wagnerian anything to achieve his ends. finale in a bunker beneath Bel-Thus Serbia will not surgrade, the fate of the warmonger of 60 years ago to wborn Mr

hesitates. The oilemma was unwittingly but perfectly enmer prime minister John Major who, almost in the same breath, opposed a ground war yet crit-

> war had begun. William Cohen, US Defense troops would not enter a "nonpermissive environment." In are considerable.

to the finish. No means to that Milosevic is constantly com- fact, with two dozen Apache pared Small wonder that Nato helicopters and thousands of US troops on their way to Albania, the alliance's pivotal capsulated this week by the for- member is edging towards doing exactly that. Public opinion, even in the US, looks readier to accept the inevitable icised Nato for having ruled one burnan losses.

out even before the bombing Even so, it may not yet fully appreciate the difficulties of timing, logistics and terrain -Secretary, again insisted Nato not to mention Nato unity - involved in a ground campaign

How land assault could be made

The timing
IN ONE sense, it is already too late. Apocalypse has struck Kosovo. Half the L8m ethnic Albanian population bas been uprooted. The rest could follow in two or three weeks, before any serious Nato ground attack could be launched. It took three months to mass the 500,000 allied troops who drove Saddam Hussein from Kuwait in 1991. This time distances are shorter and fewer troops will be needed.

About 40,000 Yugoslav troops and police are in and around Kosovo, apart from unknown numbers in militias. The conventional wisdom is that, in a ground war, an attacker must outnumber the defender by three to one to prevail. However, Nato's aerial dominance and the shortages of fuel, parts and even food soon to confront the Serbs mean the force could be only 50,000. Currently, the al-Nance has about 12,000 men in But it has no adequate port and. Macedonia, and a smaller force more importantly, its governin Albania. But in both countries ment might well be toppled in Nato has been distracted by the a coup by Serbian hardliners if colossal humanitarian disaster of the refugees. It could take a month or more to build the force up to the minimum needed to take Kosovo

HOW DO you get the men there and supply them? Had it been them), and bad roads up to the SO FAR the alliance has beld toable to choose, Nato could Yugoslav/Kosovo frontier. hardly have picked a trickier target than Kosovo for its first The terrain military offensive. You can't fly takes, for example, 500 sorties by giant C-141 transport aircraft to move just one light division with minimal supplies, and without armour. This sort of exercise requires decent ports and decent highways.

Desperate to avoid being sucked into the conflict, Macedonia, the most convenient springboard for any ground as-sault, has said it will not allow its territory to be used as a base for an invasion. And what if

ROMANIA BOSNIA BULGARIA

government asked the Nato forces to leave? On the map, the Yugoslav republic of Montenegro, sympathetic to the West and anxious to escape the grip of Milosevic, looks an option. it looked likely to become Nato's gateway into Kosovo.

This leaves Albania. Here, obviously, support for Nato Is not a problem, but strategically it's a different story. The counmy has only four madequate

KOSOVO'S BORDER with Albain a ground army overnight; it nia, like the one with Macedoquently there with "hot pursuit" raids against Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) bases - is preparing anti-tank defences, including mines and trenches at the most obvious entry points.

Once into Kosovo, Nato ground troops could also find the going tough. The opposition will be well hidden, and scat-tered across rugged, broken country. The ethnic Albanians

left in Kosovo are more likely to be buman shields for Yugoslav tanks than anti-Serb partisans, A Nato force of 50,000 to 100,000, with its vastly superior firepower, would surely prevail. But not before casualbes running into the high hundreds or low thousands, military experts predict, and perhaps not before the war has sucked in Macedonia, Albania and maybe others. All of

gether far better than expected. Even Germany, with its historical qualms about taking part in an offensive war in Europe, has not wavered during the air phase. Whether it would participate in a land invasion is another matter.

Britain and France, Europe's two biggest military powers and co-sponsors of the failed Rambouillet peace conference, would be expected to play the major part. But America's involvement would be essential: if it refused to act while others went abead, Nato's entire future would be in doubt. The biggest risk is Greece.

armour close to Kosovo quickly Is via the port of Thessaloniki, which has good rail and road links north to the Macedonian which could stretch to breaking capital. Skopje. But that needs point the strains within the friend of the Serbs and Nato's most reluctant warrior, is adamant that it will not become involved in military operations. To do so would almost certainly bring down the government of the Prime Minister, Costas

south-eastern flank

WITH ALL these difficulties, therefore, a ground war will be no walkover. Nato's choices are limited. The most obvious option is to use forces in Macedonia and Albania to secure a safe zone in south-east Kosovo, which could serve as shelter for the refugees and thereafter as a platform for a wider campaign to drive the Serbs from the The only way of getting heavy

Simitis, and destabilise Nato's



Italian soldiers in the Nato contingent deployed in Macedonia taking part in a sniper-hunting exercise near the Skopje air base

future partition. If presented as a humanitarian operation, Greek and Macedonian objections could be overcome, while Nato's air superiority means Greek approval and Athens, a the operation is feasible, even

these lines will bappen even if - for the reasons already outlined - supplying the troops could be a problem.

The extreme option is a

of the problem lies. This would great war of the century and Mr public would find hard to Milosevic to a Hitlerian plateau

Hungary, aimed not at Kosovo with even less predictable but at Belgrade, where the root consequences, and massive casualties, which even an emotruly elevate Kosovo to the last bonal, morally driven Western

Russia struggles to put life into peace efforts

A SCEPTICAL West was waiting for another peace offer from President Slobodan Milosevic last night as Russia struggled to breathe life into diplomatic efforts to find a formula to halt the 16-day-old Kosovo war.

After a meeting on Wednesday of the six-nation Contact Group of leading powers, the same senior officials gather again today in Dresden, Germany - this time as representatives of the G8 industrial powers, which also include Japan and Canada. But with the bombardment of Serb targets continuing unabated, there is scant prospect of enough common ground to justify the foreign ministers' meeting demanded by the Russian President, Boris Yeltsin, still less a full-scale summit canvassed by Moscow.

Speaking after talks with the Norwegian Foreign Minister, Knut Volleback - the most senior official from a Nato country to travel to Russia since the bombing began on 23 March the Russian Foreign Minister, Igor Ivanov, claimed Russia was making some headway in its efforts to promote a settlement. .

The problem is that while the alliance accepts that Russia, Serbia's traditional friend and lone Contact-Group member to oppose the air strikes, is the one and the withdrawal of Yugoslav "peace" had been restored to Kremlin

DIPLOMATIC MOVES



A Nato soldier with a refugee near Knkes, Albania AFP

fied by even these terms.

country with a chance of influarrny, police and other securiencing President Milosevic, it ty forces from Kosovo in their is giving Moscow absolutely no room to manoeuvre.

Technically, the basis for a settlement is still the failed Rambouillet package signed three weeks ago by the Koso-vo Albanians but rejected out of hand by Belgrade. In practice, the terms have been stiffened, into what might be called "Rambouillet plus".

This comprises not only a total ceasefire followed by deployment of an international peacekeeping force and autonomy for the province, but the return home of all refugees

diplomats, the crackdown in the province continued unchecked. despite Tuesday's announcement of a unilateral ceasefire over the Orthodox Easter, Nato is equally sceptical of claims by Russia's parliament speaker, Gennady Seleznev, yesterday that President Milosevic and the moderate Kosovo Albanian leader, Ibrahim Rugova, had agreed to draft a plan for an interim government in Kosovo.

the province. According to the

Despite Serb television pictures showing the two men shaking bands. Nato and Albanian sources say Mr Rugova is being held under house arrest in the Kosovo capital, Pristina.

Even so, Weslern countries are already doing "a lot of thinking" about the post-war entirety - as opposed to the political arrangements for original deal allowing Mr Milo-Kosovo, and the reconstruction sevic to deploy 1,500 troops to of the Balkans. France is to proguard Kosovo's international pose a debt-cancellation and aid package for Albania and Maceborders, and the 40,000-plus in donia at this month's Internaand around the province now. But the longer the fighting contional Monetary Fund meetings tinues, the less likely are the in Washington.

■ President Yeltsin had medical Kosovo Albanians to be satistests yesterday and then re-There is every sign it will turned to one of his country rescontinue. Nato diplomats dis-missed as "a ploy" last night a statement by the Serb media idences, the Kremlin press service said, Mr Yeltsin, 68 and often sick in recent years. stopped at the Central Clinical that the Yugoslav offensive against Albanian "terrorists" in Hospital for the scheduled tests Kosovo had ended, and that on his way home from the

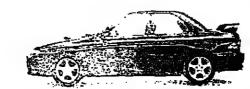
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Lawrence 'stunt' leaves nasty taste

THE INTERVIEWS with the five BY KATHY MARKS Lawrence suspects were conducted amid a storm of controversy. For six years, the men had refused to talk about Stephen's racist murder. The ethics of giving them a platform on national television seemed doubtful, to say the least.

The uncomfortable questions raised by last night's programme - the launch edition of TTV's current affairs flagship Tonight, have not gone away.

But the anger of Stephen Lawrence's parents, Neville and Doreen, will to some extent be assuaged by the fact that the men's high-risk strategy of finally giving their side of the story may have backfired. The five - Neil Acourt, Gary

Dobson and Luke Knight, all 23, and Jamie Acourt and David Norris. 22 - were interviewed separately by Martin Bashir, whose previous interviewees include Diana, Princess of Wales and Louise Woodward, the au pair convicted of manslaughter in the United States.

Whether the men's disclosures take the police investigation much further remains to be seen. Neil Acourt, Dobson and Knight have already been acquitted of killing Stephen and are thus immune from prosecution in the future.

John Grieve, who heads the Metropolitan Police's task force on racist crime and is in charge

of the Lawrence investigation, courts. This is just a publicity s planning to scrutinise tapes of the interviews. Police took court action last week to obtain copies, but then agreed to wait until after transmission.

Last night's screening followed a day of frantic legal consultations by Granada, the programme-maker, which cancelled an afternoon press preview at the last minute. Distaste about the pro-

gramme led to a rare meeting of minds between the Lawrences and the Metropolitan Police Federation, both of whom condemned it as a "publicity stunt". Mr Lawrence told BBC Television yesterday: "These boys have been given several opportunities in the stunt to try and say they didn't kill my son." Glen Smyth, chairman of the federation, challenged the men to "present fering new lines of inquiry." themselves at a police station

by appointment to be interviewed by police officers and answer the difficult questions, as opposed to being interviewed by a journalist". Jeff Anderson, editor of

Tonight, defended the programme as valid journalism. He described the questioning as "rigorous and detailed" and said the five men were given no chance to confer between interviews. After lawyers for the Lawrences were shown a preview yesterday morning, Mr Anderson said: "We are pleased

that Mr and Mrs Lawrence's lawyers now acknowledge that the programme does produce significant new information of-

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The decision of the five men to break their silence follows six years of stubborn stonewalling. They refused to answer questions, or said little, when they were arrested in 1993. At Stephen's inquest in 1997, each invoked his right to privilege

against self-incrimination. When called to Sir William Macpherson of Cluny's public inquiry last year, they went to the High Court and secured a ruling that limited the scope of questioning. Even then, they gave only monosyllabic or evasive answers. In his report, Sir

William condemned their performances in the witness box as "arrogant and dismissive".

According to their mothers, who gave a radio interview earlier this year, this approach was in line with legal advice.

Strangely they were not advised against talking to Mr Bashir. In fact, according to Granada, it was they who approached him after taking advice from the public relations consultant Max Clifford

ITV and Granada were congratulating themselves last night on a spectacular journalistic coup for the new programme. For many people, though, it left a nasty taste that will persist long after the publicity has subsided.



Jamie Acourt being interviewed on 'Tonight' PA/Granada

Doctor quits after critical **NHS** report

A CONSULTANT radiologist who By NICK ALLEN headed a heavily criticised breast cancer screening service has resigned after the publication of a report by a disciplinary inquiry, which was set up to investigate complaints of misconduct and incompetence against him.

Dr John Brennan, who headed the East Devon Breast Screening Service, said in a statement that he had resigned because of an "irretrievable breakdown of trust and confidence" between himself and the Royal Devon and Exeter Healthcare NHS Trust.

His resignation was offered on Tuesday before an extraordinary meeting of the trust board to consider the findings, and decide whether any discinary action should be taken against him. No payment had been made in connection with the resignation, the trust said.

Dr Brennan was suspended on full pay in November 1997 after it emerged that there had been delays in detecting breast cancer in nine women, two of of almost 4,000 women, of the 75,000 women screened since the service began in early 1990, were re-examined, and over 1,700 were retaken. Dr Brennan ran the part of the unit based at the Royal Devon and Exeter

A government inquiry into

AND CHRIS COURT

the service, headed by the Chief Medical Officer, Sir Kenneth Calman, which reported in November 1997, said there was evidence of failure to provide care to the standard reasonably expected of consultants. An independent external inquiry panel was set up under Department of Health procedures.

Dr Brennan said yesterday that the inquiry panel's report was "critical of my clinical competence and conduct in various areas". He did not accept the findings, but had to accept that criticisms of his professional skills and conduct had been

Dr Brennan added that his resignation was the culmination of a disciplinary process that had lasted for almost two years and had put an "unbearable personal strain" on both him and his family.

Chris Over, an Exeter solicitor who is co-ordinating claims by about 50 patients arising out f the failure of the screening service, said he hoped that following Dr Brennan's resignation, the trust would have more time to consider the resolution of the claims of patients, who had received letters admitting that an error had been made in their mammogram readings.



Bell ringers at St Paul's Cathedral in London practising their skills for the nationwide bell-ringing planned for millennium New Year's Eve and Day Geraint Lewis

ildren hired to solve crisis in belfry

trained to ring church bells on New Year's Eve while their parents make plans to celebrate the new millennium in a more secular fashion.

A campaign to find enough bell ringers for every church in the country was launched last year, but there is still a shortage on Jersey.

The tiny island has just two churches with bells but there are not enough adult bell ringers for the big night. So Simon Linford, the captain of us, so we have been teaching

By Kate Watson-Smyth

the Tower of St John's Church, has turned to Sunday school children for help. He said that they were ex-

tremely keen to take over bell ringing duties and there was a waiting list of applicants. Unfortunately, they are restricted more by height than

ability, he added. "Finding people who will be prepared to do it on the eve of the millennium will be hard for

St John's are quite light so it's the children, although they do have to stand on a couple of

hoves and we will have to huv some more before the night. "They view it as a rather glamorous occupation."

Usually the minimum age for learning to ring church bells is 12, as most small chitdren do not have the strength in their arms to pull down on the heavy ropes. But as this is

the children from the Sunday a special case it was decided a magazine for bell ringers, duty on the millennium New school," he said. "The bells at that an exception could be made. "I have been worried not too much of a problem for about it for some time and this seemed like a good solution,

Mr Linford said.

"Many of our regular bell ringers are young people who return to the mainland to see their families at that time of year and that has left us short in previous years so this time we are going to do something about it.

David Thorne, the former editor of The Ringing World, said it was not an unusual occupation for children, but eight was very young.

"Childre often start learn-

ing at 12 but the Jersey bells are not too heavy so it is fine for them to begin at a younger age," Mr Thorne said. We have had some seven-

year-olds ringing very well but it doesn't happen all that often because of their size."

He said there would be some parishes where bell ringers did not want to be on

Year's Eve, but the campaign to recruit extra ringers was proving successful.

We have found an extra 1,000 ringers during the past year and are confident of finding another one or two thousand more by the millennium." Mr Thorne said.

"There will be a lot of bells rung at midnight but the main aim is to ring them all at midday on 1 January and I think we sball definitely manage

DNA chip testing 'could be abused'

NA CHIPS that need only sec- By CHARLES ARTHUR onds to analyse an individual's genetic make-up could lead to an ethical morass, leading doctors warn today.

As well as being abused by insurers and employers who would only want to employ "genetically clean" staff, such chips, expected to be widely available in a few years, could also mean that couples receiving in-vitro fertilisation will have less power over the future of any embryos produced by the An examination of the po-

tential effects of DNA chips appears in the latest Journal of Medical Ethics, Such chips are an unquestionable blessing For clinical medicine", said Dr Wolfram Henn, of the Institute

Technology Editor

for Human Genetic at the University of Saarland in Germany. "But health insurers are likely to want extensive screening programmes with them, on the basis that expensive diseases could be prevented."

Similarly, Dr Heather Draper and Dr Ruth Chadwick warn that tests performed on IVF embryos before they are implanted in the womb could mean that the doctor, rather than the parents, would have the final say on whether implantation went ahead.

DNA chips would be made of silicon. A person's DNA, from blood or skin, would be fixed on to the surface for reading.

Monsanto legal move sparks civil rights row

Blair could soon receive legal notices from the biotechnology giant Monsanto, which is seeking legal powers to identify people who bave received a campaign handbook from the pressure group Genetix The company wants to be

PRINCE CHARLES and Tony

granted a court order allowing it to find out the names of the

BY CHARLES ARTHUR AND ARTHUR NESLEN

650-odd recipients of the book on the grounds that by reading the book, a person could legally be described as a "conspirator", and so would be covered by an existing injunction made in July against the authors.

The Handbook for Action. published in December, pro-

sites where genetically modified crops are being tested, and describes how to appoint the

crops, which would disrupt the trials. In the past two years perple claiming to act for Genetix of GM trial sites around

After those disruptions. Monsanto obtained an injuction for a copy of the book. Civil lib-

vides a guide to identifying against six members of the group to stop them trespassing on various pieces of land.

While the Prince and the Prime Minister are the highestprofile names to whom the book has been sent, a new Snowball have torn up dozens court order - if granted - would require Genetix Snowball to hand over the names and addresses of everyone who asked

they saw as a corporate attack on free speech. John Wadham of the civil rights group Liberty. said: "The collection and retention of names and addresses of people by Monsanto is very worrying for us. These could be people who have merely read a book and

are in subsequent danger of

being caught up in court pro-

erties groups criticised what ceedings when they have done nothing wrong."

Monsanto said: "We are not against freedom of speech. It is just that the book's recipients need to be notified, because if they take action then the responsibility would ultimately fall on to the defendants at Genetix Snowball." The penalty for breaking the injunction is up to two years in prison.

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Trinket tray on top of the TV was Captain Cook's £20,000 fruit bowl



Robert Finan and bowl

THE WOODEN bowl had sat on BY GARY FINN top of the television for 26 years, holding fruit, keys and loose change, so no one a house clearance in 1973. The thought to point it out when the

antiques dealer came round. But Robert Finan spotted it immediately and a closer unspection confirmed his suspicions. He told the stunned owners it was a Hawaiian pakaka dish a food bowl - which had accompanied Captain Cook on his final doomed voyage to the Pa-

Now it could fetch about £20,000 when it comes up inr auction tomorrow in Mere.

The bowl was part of a cart

load of "junk" collected during buyer, a second-hand furniture dealer, who wishes to remain anonymous, had no idea of the history behind the 13-inch diameter disb and was ready to throw it out before his wile

"I was absolutely flabber gasted when I saw it." said Mr Finan "I recognised it immediately as a fine example of an Hawaiian pakaka, which are worth up to \$5,000 anyway 1 found out that it had come from a clearance sate at Brid-

well House in Uffculine, which

took a shine to it

at one time held a large number of Cook artefacts that were sold for auction in 1967. This piece was obviously overlooked, among all the whale ribs, coral and furniture."

The owner said: "I cannot believe that we sat staring at this valuable antique for all those years."

Collectors from Europe and America and representatives from the Bribsh Museum will be among the bidders.

Mr Finan added: "We have this man's wife to thank for inadvertently preserving this historic piece. There is a huge amount of interest in Cook's artelacts.



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ONdigital claims successful launch

THE DIGITAL television supplier, ONdigital, revealed yesterday that it bas attracted 110,000 subscribers in the four months since it launched. In the same period Sky signed up 350,000, although this includes subscribers who were already watching Sky's analogue satel-

The drive for customers was given a boost yesterday when Bush, the Britisb-owned television manufacturer, launched

a range of five digital sets, the cheapest of which will sell for about £500 - less than half the price of the sets currently available. Many manufacturers, including Philips, Sony and Panasonic, plan to market their own sets later this year.

According to market researchers, even those who have managed to resist the lure of multiple television channels

League football, or children's demands for non-stop cartoons, make digital hard to resist.

In theory, digital television offers a better picture and clearer sound. But the real attraction is that it offers viewers a multitude of channels compared with the five they can receive with a normal television set.

Until now, viewers wbo wanted digital television had to go out and spend £200 on a set-

ther pick Sky's 140-channel digital service, which needs a satellite dish to receive it, or opt for a more limited number of channels from ONdigital, a joint venture between the ITV com-

which works through an aerial. Sky and ONdigital, which both launched their offerings in a blaze of publicity last autumn, have been subsidising the cost of the decoders to en-

panies Granada and Carlton,

will find the promise of Premier top box decoder. They could ei-League football, or children's ther pick Sky's 140-channel dig-up. The decoder comes huilt into the set of the new range of digital televisions.

However, viewers will still have to subscribe to either Sky or DNdigital to receive sport and movie channels. And observers point out that technological change means viewers may end up changing their decoders more frequently than they would normally change their TV. Early indications are that

people signing up for the service were attracted by Sky Sports' coverage of Premier League football, which is available on both services. Meanwhile, it appears that children have been pestering their parents to sign up so that they can watch dedicated children's

"It is almost as if there has been a final reluctant acceptance by consumers that if they

channels such as the Cartoon

Network and TNT.

want to watch top-quality sport in the home, they have no option but to go digital," says Lucy Thompson, a project manager at CIA Medialab, a media

CIA's research shows that new digital subscribers watch more television than they did before. However, not everyone in homes equipped with digital television is benefiting to the same extent. "Mothers are saying they are watching less TV,

because their children and husbands are watching cartoons or sport," says Ms Thompson. "It is almost as if they feel they are being pushed out."

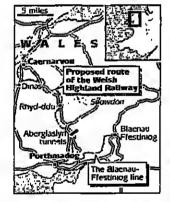
ONdigital is hoping to change that by offering its subscribers a series of exclusive programmes, including oneoff, feature-length episodes of Emmerdale and Coronation Street, and a final episode of Inspector Morse

Business, page 21

Prescott backs new railway in Snowdonia

PLANS TO open a tourist railway through the heart of Snowdonia National Park, which critics say would devastate some of Britain's most beautiful and unspoilt landscape, were given government approval yesterday.

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, overruled a government planning inspector's recommendation to block full implications of the reconthe reconstruction of the 25mile Welsh Highland Railway,



which runs from Porthmadog to Dinas near Caernarvon.

Mr Prescott said he was "minded" to approve the scheme but said the final decision would be delayed until Ffestiniog Mountain Railway sbowed that there would be no danger to passengers from rock falls. However, it is likely the new Weish Assembly, to be voted in on 6 May, will make the final decision.

Mr Prescott said be had approved the scheme in principle after giving much thought to the "complex issues. I'm very aware of the sensitivity of the Snowdonia National Park. That is why I have asked the com- and by all the necessary sig-

BY PHILIP THORNTON Transport Correspondent

pany to undertake a detailed survey of the rock faces in the vicinity of the Aberglastyn tunnels." He said the company must establish it can carry out works to prevent rock falls without harming the environment. "It is essential that we know the struction of the railway at Aberglaslyn before a final decision is made." Mr Prescott said.

He said the railway would attract 125,000 visitors a year, hringing in £4.2m and leading to "significant joh creation".

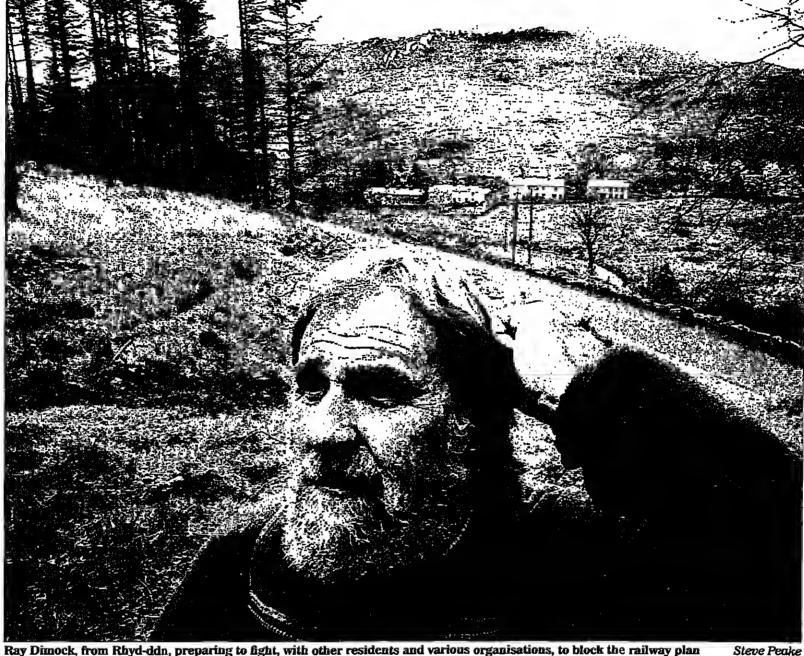
plan fitted with the Government's transport policy, as it would encourage more people to leave their cars outside the park, be said.

Conservation groups condemned the decision, saying the railway would attract unwanted tourist development that would bring pollution, noise and disruption to an area of outstanding natural beauty.

During a seven-week public inquiry in late 1997, the plan was fiercely opposed by the Snowdonia National Park, the Ramblers' Association, National Farmers' Union (NFU) and the National Trust.

The planning inspector concluded there were insufficient benefits to the park and its economy to outweigh the adverse effects of the scheme.

Richard Williams, chairman of Gwarchod, the group formed to oppose the railway, said the venture would tear in half his 100-hectare farm. "The countryside will lose out because it will he scarred by the railway



nage, the fencing and the works to accommodate it," be said. Mr Williams accused Labour of playing politics by announc-

ing investment in north Wales ahead of the Welsh elections. The objectors have also drawn the support of residents, such as Ray Dimock, from the

village of Rhyd-ddu, who joined the Gwarchod committee. The NFU called on Mr Prescott to reverse his decision.

"He has caused a great deal of agriculture," Mr Francis said. uncertainty in the minds of local people and farmers who are strongly opposed to the

project," said a spokesman. Rory Francis, the director of the Snowdonia Society, said he was optimistic the Welsh Assembly would reverse Mr Prescott's decision. "The most important issues are the loss of footpaths, pollution, visual intrusion and interference with

Snowdonia National Park said it had been vindicated by the inspector's recommendation but was disappointed with

Mr Prescott's ruling. "It's not lost yet," a spokesman said. Ffestiniog Mountain Railway said it wanted to deliver the results of a "thorough and extensive" study to Mr Prescott as soon as possible

Mike Hart, its chairman, said: "We are pleased he has recognised the economic benefits and the potential integrated transport opportunities the railway will bring to the re-

gion. This is an important day for the railway."

The narrow-gauge line, which closed in 1937, passes through some of the most isolated parts of the national park. The £9m project - which includes a £4.3m grant from the Millennium Commission - will extend the popular 14-mile line from Porthmadog to Blaenau Ffestiniog to create Britain's longest volunteer-run tourist

The Ramblers' Association said a popular walking route would be lost if the decision was confirmed. "The inspector concluded against it and it seems a lottery grant may be driving it on," said a spokeswoman.

The National Trust said that the area was one of the "most picturesque" places in the na-tional park and had been under its protection since 1935. The decision to undertake

a detailed survey of the rock faces is welcomed. As the railway would run through National Trust land in the Aberglaslyn Pass it would expect to be involved in the survey and comment on any proposed remedial works," a spokesman said.

Breeding mallard halts spa revival

By CLARE GARNER

A £15M MILLENNIUM Commission project to revive Bath's 2,000-year-old tradition of bathing in spa water has been delayed - by a mallard.

Oblivious to the plans, the brown speckled duck, named Beatrice, built her nest heside one of six Roman buildings that are being restored. Now, as she warms her clutch, the project organisers are nervously awaiting a decision on whether they will be granted a licence to remove her six eggs.

Mike Gray, the manager of the Bath Spa Project, said yesterday: "If we left the nest where it is, we would have a minimum of eight ducks - and possibly as many as 20 - swimming around in a closed space with chemicals, heavy plant and engineers monitoring the equipment. The ducks would be in a state of panic."

Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, a wild bird's nest cannot be disturbed without a special licence from the Department for the Environment. The Wetlands and Wildfowl Trust at Slimbridge in Gloucestershire has agreed to transport the eggs in an insulated box. hatch them in an incubator and then place the chicks with a foster duck.

Beatrice and her partner, Arthur, have nested in the same place for the past two years. To try to ensure they went elsewhere this year, Mr Gray had strung netting across the top of the 30ft by 30ft Cross Bath. However, someone objected to the interference with the ducks' mating habits and cut the netting at night - three times.

Bath's hot spring pools, which were used hy the Romans for worship and healing were closed 20 years ago.

Preliminary tests to establish whether the water can he made safe for hathing and drinking are due to begin this month. The Millennium Commission has contributed £6.7m to the project, which is scheduled for completion in 2001.

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Girls 'doomed to life of low pay'

GIRLS MAY be excelling at school, hut many still end up in low-paid jobs dominated by women, according to research published yesterday.

Traditional stereotypes still shape girls' choices and opportunities and education training and employment, the report -"Gender Equality and the Career Service" - for the Equal Opportunities Commission found.

The privatised careers service came under fire for failing to redress the balance between boys and girls. Even initiatives such as the Modern Apprenticeship scheme showed big differences in the jobs taken by young men and women.

Some 67 per cent of information technology apprenticeships and 96 per cent of engineering places were taken by young men with average weekly salaries of £140 and BY BARRIE CLEMENT Labour Editor

£115, but 80 per cent of those in

husiness administration and 92 per cent in hairdressing were taken by women, where the average wage was £107 and £62 respectively.

The prevailing view seemed to be "send a lad for the yard and a nice young thing for reception," the researchers said. While parents, schools,

peers and managers were taken to task for reinforcing stereotypes, the careers service had a critical part to play in influencing young people, according to the study.

Julie Mellor, chair of the commission, said equal opportunibes had not been given a high profile by the careers service, but it was now in a position to make a real difference.

Yorkshire Bank Base Rate

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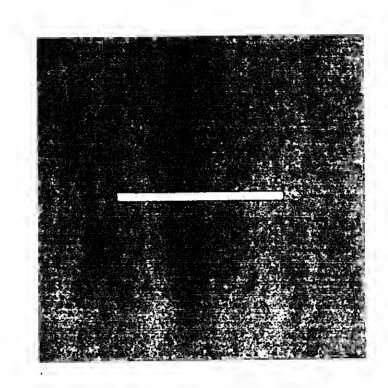
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Blair denies using jobs to boost poll TONY BLAIR denied yesterday he was using job amounce. By Stephen Goodwin Scolland Correservandant Scolland

ments to help the Labour Party in the campaign for elections to

the Scottish Parliament. The Prime Minister was in Lanarksbire Development Agency, where 1.000 new jobs with the US investment bank Morgan Stanley Dean Witter

he arrived. Mr Blair said: "The timing is actually in the company's hands and rather than election campaign and began 1,000 jobs over five years, I his day by paying a visit to the would have thought our oppo-

land, Donald Dewar, and said that Labour's campaign for the elections to the Scottish Parliament was going extremely Scotland on his first foray of the criticising the announcement of well. "We do have the right programme for the future of Scotland and we have, in Donald cents should be welcoming Dewar, easily the most trustworthy and talented politician to lead Scotland."

Alex Salmond, the leader of the Scottish National Party, a strain for the party's small po-

down its commitment to independence and higher taxes for Mr Salmond has alarmed the better-off. Mr Salmond some party members with his refused to confirm this party's gambles of an extra penny on long-standing policy of imposing a top rate tax of 500 in the income tax and condemning

pound and the abolition of the

ceiling on National Insurance

contributions. Scotland's "first

general election", as the SNP

has billed it, is already proving

Nato bombing in Yugoslavia. The SNP's manifesto offered a "bridge to independence" through its promise of a referendum on the issue within the nomic performance. The first four years of the Scottish

polling may not have been en- of what the SNP would do after independeoce was not an issue for the 6 May poll.

> was playing down independence, a report by economists for the Edinburgh-based David Hume Institute said a move from devolution to outright independence could improve eco-

European single currency one of Mr Salmond's key aims without tight control of public spending or higher taxes.

Ironically, while Mr Salmond The Scottish Tory manifesto. which was also published yesterday, opens with an apology from the leader, David McLetchie, on how the party "got it wrong" at the May 1997 general election – when not a single Conservative MP sureconomists warned, towever,

with little relevance, or sympathy, for the needs of the Scot-

tish people," he said.
The new "Tartan Tories" promise no more new taxes, the abolition of university tuition fees, "modern matrons" in hospitals and - in common with the SNP and the Liberal Democrats - a lifting of the beef on the-

Activist calls for boycott over 'control freakery'

A LEADING Labour grassroots BY ANDREW GRICE activist is urging the party's members to boycott its campaigo for the European elections in June as a protest against Tony Blair's "control

Tim Pendry, who bas attacked the Labour hierarchy as "Leninist", is now expected to become a victim of the "control freakery" tie condemned. Party officials plan to take disciplinary action against him for seeking to foment a rebellion that could harm Labour's electoral

Mr Pendry has resigned as chairman of his local Labour party branch in Islington, north London, to protest at the way national party bosses chose the candidates for the June European parliament elections.

He accused Labour leaders of "crude manipulation" of the closed list system, under which people will vote only for a party rather than individual candidates, to ban critics of the Government from standing.

"In view of the associated, crude and systematic stifling by the party bureaucracy of coostructive dissent within the party, I have decided oot to donate funds, canvass or engage in any electoral support activ- trouble

ity, or even vote in the European election," said Mr Pendry. In a letter to party bosses, he

said tie would urge other mem-bers who asked his advice to abstain from party activity during elections. "If I had wanted to join a communist party with a Leninist approach to candidate selection, I would have done so," be said.

Mr Pendry is also standing down as co-ordinator of the Grassroots Alliance, a centreleft group that scored a victory over Blairite candidates in last year's elections to the party's National Executive A Labour spokesman said

the party was "actively examining" taking disciplinary action against Mr Pendry over his call for a boycott of the campaign-a move that could result in his expulsion. "It is pretty clear cut; this is something we take very seriously," said the

Mr Blair's allies claimed Mr Pendry's decision to quit his post with the grassroots group showed that what they called "the ragbag alliance" was in



Tony Blair being shown the controls of a Tornado fighter bomber at RAF Lossiemouth yesterday Simon Price

his departure from the group was "completely unrelated" to his decision oo the European elections. He was relaxed about facing disciplinary action. "My breaking from the party. It may view is that the Labour Party hreak from me."

Last night Mr Pendry said is run by a small clique, a machine. It does not have any more to say to most of the people it serves," be said. "So let them do their worst; I am oot

The call for an activists' boycott will worry Labour officials. who already fear it will be hard to motivate traditional Labour supporters to turn out in the European poll and in oext

Labour candidate in the European elections, has withdrawn

from the party's list in the South-east regioo because she feels she can no longer represeot New Labour.

She has opposed a £2,000 levy imposed oo constituency month's local authority Labour parties to raise funds for the Euro campaign, and told In another protest, Lynne the left-wing Tribune oewspa-Armstrong, a prospective per it was wrong "to rip off people who do not have the

Guide finds Scotland not so bonny

SCOTTISH TOURIST attractions By PETER WOODMAN are criticised in a leading travel guide published yesterday.

Edinburgh has a "thriving drug scene and a depressing Aids problem", according to the Lonely Planet Guide to Scotland. It describes John o' Groats as "a ramstrackle tourist trap", while "appalling kitsch reigns through the summer" at Aviemore in the Cairngorms. The guide sees "little reason" to visit the elopers' town of Gretna Green, while Dundee, although a friendly city, has "ugly flats and unsightly concrete walkways". Glasgow's standard of living "remains low for the UK and life is tough for those affected by the relatively high unemployment, inadequate bousing and generally poor diet", it says.

Lord Gordon of Strathblane, chairman of the Scottish Tourist Board said: "Overall, the guide is extremely complimeotary and the criticism is well balanced. Some of the critlcism is fully justified. We are tearing down Aviemore and rebuilding it, while Dundee has suffered from some of the poor planning introduced in the

The guide says:

Aviemore: "More like a downmarket resort in the Rockies that can't quite invent ftself in the swank image to which it aspires."

Dundee: "Poor Dundee. This plaints about Calton Hill and my grey city is an unfortunate ex- understanding is it's predomiample of the worst of the 1960s nately a safe area." and 1970s town planning - ugly hlocks of flats and office buildings joined by unsightly concrete walkways."

■ Edinburgh: Calton Hill, a gay cruising area where a Japanese tourist was badly injured in 1997, "is probably best avoided at night", while Edinburgh Castle is so "crawling with tourists" that it might be "more impressive from the outside looking in". But the guide also described Edinburgh as "one of the world's great cities with ... extraordinary architectural beritage". Glasgow was "large, lively and interesting", while Aberdeen was "an extraordinary symphony in grey" and Dundee had some of the "friendliest, most welcoming and most entertaining people you'll meet anywhere in the

The guide also said Scotland was a birdwatchers' paradise and had some truly magnificent sandy beaches.

Douglas Ritchie, director of marketing at Edinburgh and Lothians Tourist Board said: 'I don't think Aids and drugs are something we get feedback on from tourists, we have never had any complaints as far as I'm concerned." He said Edinburgh Castle was a "must-see" destination and was "so popular it's got a large number of tourists, but oumbers are at tolerable levels". He added: We've oever had any com-

A spokesman for Edinburgh City Council said Edinburgh's problems with beroin and Aids were mostly in the past.

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THE INDEPENDENT Friday 9 April 1999

PSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE

Violent women: the five stereotypes

BY CHERRY NORTON

MOST PEOPLE have personal experience of a woman who is violent, and they accept it as a normal part of her personality. according to new research.

Susannah Chappell, a researcher at the Open University, found that society sees violent women in five different stereotypes that can be found in real life and fiction.

Presenting her findings on "Violent Women - Reality or Media Hype?" to the British Psychological Society conference yesterday, Ms Chappell said the most extreme form manifested itself in the fictional portrayal of "the bitter and twisted revenge-seeker". A classic example in film, she said, was the psychotic nanny played by Rebecca De Mornay in The Hand That Rocks The

"Society believes that more women are becoming violent," said Ms Chappell. "The research showed that there was a split between the portrayal of a new breed of uncontrollable violent women on television



Bitter and twisted, this woman is seen as menacing and sadistic

but craving the approval of others and in film and the more mun- statements such as: she is dane violence of everyday life." cruel and sadistic; she does not care who she hurts; she is well The study analysed the responses of 100 people who were able to stand up for herself; she has a nasty temper. Seventyasked to think of a violent person, real or fictional. They rated two respondents identified a

identified a fictional character and 22 could not think of a violent woman.

Selfish, impulsive with a nasty temper

Ms Chappell then grouped the portrayals of violent women into five groups. The most violent was the hitter and twisted them on a 13-point scale for 81 real person while six people

temper. She did not trust others, yet craved their approval. pleasant but sane person." The vision soap opera EastEnders



Stroppy friend Aggressive, strong-willed and stubborn, but also lovable and loyal



Assertive go-getter Melanie Griffith in Working Girl, selfassured and able to stand up for herself

who was seen as intolerant, someone who "gets a kick out of having power over others".

The third type was the bully fourth type, the "stroppy friend", was verbally aggressive rather than physically violent. She was seen as strong-willed Ms Chappell said: "This image and stubborn but also as lovable is much more normal, an un- and loyal; Bianca from the tele-

was a prime example of this per-

The fifth type, the "assertive go-getter" such as Melanie Griffith in the film Working Girl, was seen as self-assured

Moderate drinking can harm foetus

PREGNANT WOMEN who drink BY CHERRY NORTON just four glasses of wine a week are putting the health of their babies at risk. Research presented at the annual conference of the British Psychological Society in Belfast yesterday showed that drinking, even in moderate amounts, is just as harmful to the unborn child as smoking. The findings showed abnormal brain activity in foetuses of women who drank aiphol, which it is feared will lead behaviour and attention

problems in later life. Most of the emphasis for pregnant women has been to cut the number who smoke. For the effects are worse. Fewer tivities at 25 week

"There needs to be more education on the effects of alcohol during pregnancy," said Jennifer Little, of the Foetal Behaviour Research Centre at the Royal
Maternity Hospital, Queen's
University, Belfast, who conducted the study. "There has lems. The conference was told been lots of concern for smoking but alcohol can be just as damaging to the unborn child. There is no safe level of alcohol

consumption during pregnancy" The researchers fear that the damage to brain activity and brain development in the womb could be permanent. All the babies showed normal responses at hirth but now at five months old are undergoing testing.

Health Correspondent

the brain activity of 129 foetuses at 25 weeks. A loud buzzer was placed on the mother's stomach and the response time of the foetus, which gives an indication of development, was recorded. Just over a third of the foetuses whose mothers smoked up to 20 cigarettes a day, and drank four to seven units of alcohol a week, responded at the normal rate compared with 70 per cent of those mothers who neither smoked or drank. For the foetuses of mothers who smoked women who smoke and drink but did not drink, 55 per cent responded normally and for those than half of their unborn babies , of mothers who drank but did showed lower levels of brain ac not smoke, only 42.5 per cent re-

Ms Little said Britain should follow the example of the United States, where health warnings about alcohol and the

that foetal behaviour at 18-20 weeks could soon be monitored in all pregnant women to allow earlier identification of potential neurological problems. Delegates were told it was possible to identify foetal development problems in mothers who have diabetes and foetal leg movements could also be used as a means of assessing neur-Id are undergoing testing. al functioning and deterioration in a spina bifida foetus.

Chimps 'deserve human rights'

CHIMPANZEES HAVE a range of BY CHERRY NORTON personalities and character traits similar to those found in humans, according to new research. A study presented yesterday to the British Psychological Society in Belfast will fuel the debate over whether chimpanzees should share basic human rights.

Dr Lindsay Murray, of University College London, studied 59 chimpanzees at Chester, London and Twycross zoos. She found that personality varied according to age and sex, and each had a unique character. By

assessing 25 traits, she identified five distinct types, from "socia-bly confident" to "excitably timid" and "socially placid".

Chimpanzees share 98 per cent of their genes with hu-mans, but are still used for experiments in the United States and the Netherlands.

"Our research is scientific proof that chimps do have a unique personality... and have many human qualities... Chimps should be granted basic human rights," Dr Murray said.

IN BRIEF

Couple on child abduction charges

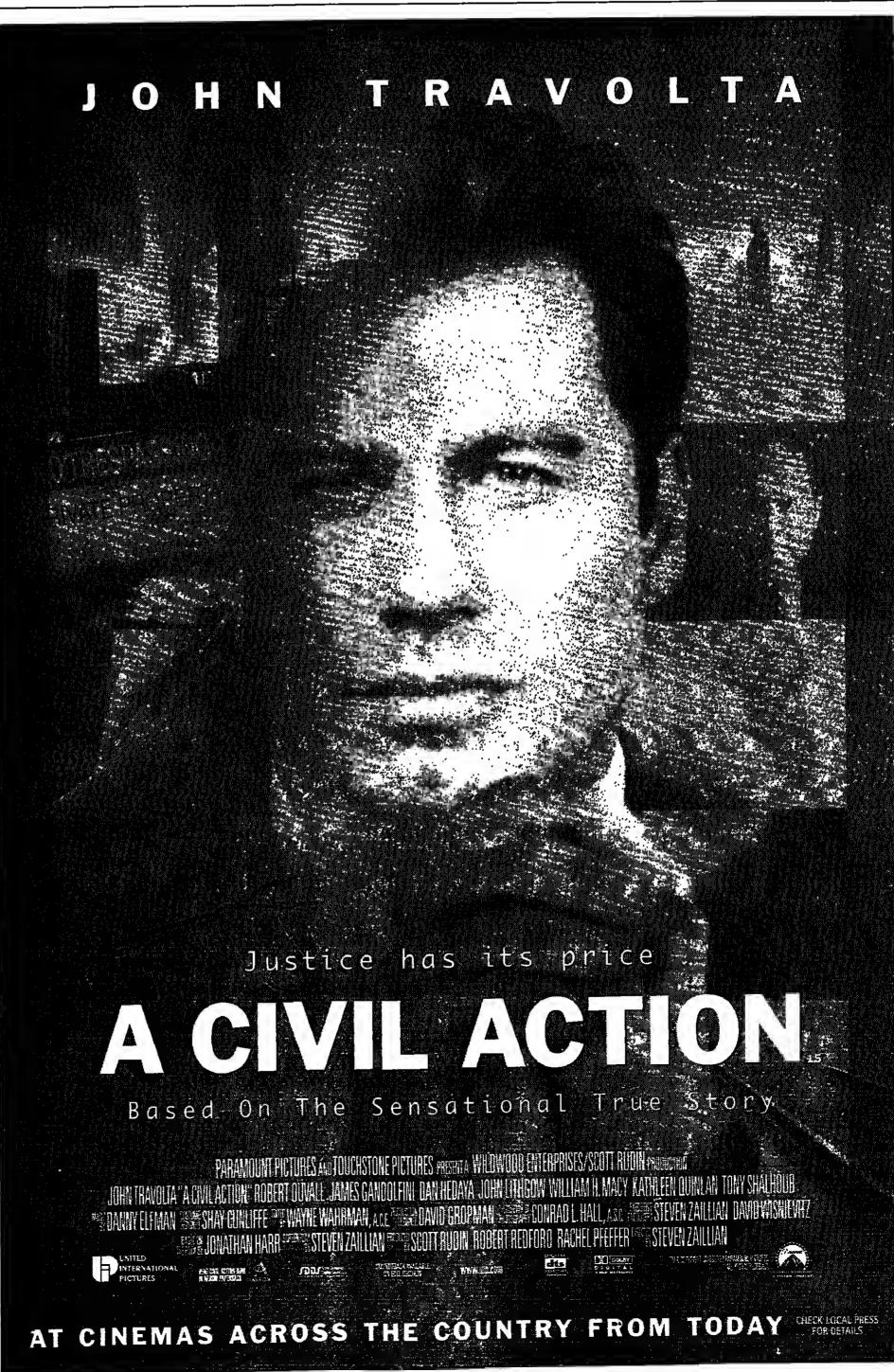
TWO PEOPLE appeared yesterday before magistrates in Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, charged with the abduction of two children aged five and three. Jeff and Jennifer Bramley, both 35, pleaded not guilty to four charges under the 1984 Child Abduction Act.

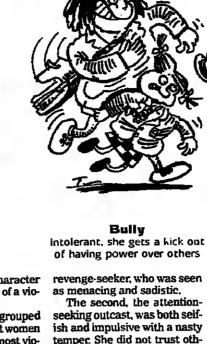
ME sufferer grew cannabis

A WOMAN with the chronic fatigue syndrome ME grew cannabis plants, which she used to alleviate the pain. Plymouth Crown Court was told. Candace Kelly, 51, from Halwell, near Totnes, Devon, pleaded guilty and was given a 12-month suspended prison sentence.

Study into mobile phone risks

THE GOVERNMENT is to set up a working group to examine the latest research into possible health risks from mobile phones. Research out yesterday showed that using mobiles causes hot spots in the brain, with possible long term health implications.





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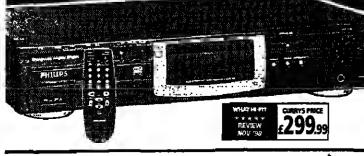


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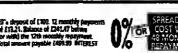
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Straw backs civilian street patrols



Jack Straw yesterday. He outlined his support for civilian patrols to work with local councils Andrew Buurman

JACK STRAW has backed the By JASON BENNETTO use of civilian and private street patrols - paving the way for the creation of a second security

The Home Secretary has also signalled a crackdown on alcohol-related crime, blaming much of the rise in violence on cheap drink and excessive consumption by teenagers. Schemes that "name and shame" pubs and clubs where drunkeo fights are commooplace are to be given government funding as part of the initiative.

But, most controversially, Mr Straw, in an interview with The Independent, has for the first time giveo his support to an expansion of civilian patrols in streets, parks, shopping centres and estates. A Home Office group is drawing up a blueprint to help police forces and local authorities to set up schemes. Chief constables have already giveo their backing to

Although the Home Office insists that the new patrols and "neighbourhood wardens" will only support the police and not it to develop is by local agree-

AND DONALD MACINTYRE

replace them, the move will cause anger and concern among many beat officers. The Tories have also accused the Home Secretary of wanting to use civilian patrols as a backdoor method of policing on the cheap. The "wardens" are expected to be trained by the police, but paid for by local authorities and private spoosorship. They are to be drawn from the estimated 240,000 people who work in the private security industry as well as council-funded schemes and

Mr Straw said: "There are twice as many people working in the private security industry as work in the police service and a significant proportion of those are oow involved in ooopolice patrol. Every shopping centre bas security people who are non-police and many housing estates and a great many parks and some authorities It's a resource which needs to be developed. How I would like

private citizens.

other public authorities like

the health service. "There should be a practical debate that this large resource, which is already there, should be used, rather than a synthetic debate about whether all these people can be replaced by police officers - manifestly they can't." A Home Office working party is examining existing patrolling schemes and drawing up guidelines. A report is due to be published this month.

Three local authorities in London have also been asked to bid for Home Office money to set up pilot patrol schemes. Wandsworth council in southwest London plans to employ 12 civilian "patrollers" to work at a railway station and shopping

Oo the link between violence and excessive drinking, Mr Straw said: "There's been an increase in alcohol coosumption, particularly among the young, which has something to do with cash and availability. It's about cheap alcobol being available." He agreed

ment, oot only between the po- that illegally importing beer lice and the local council, but and spirits from Europe was part of the problem.

The Home Secretary is particularly impressed by a scheme run by Cardiff Royal Infirmary which "names and shames" clubs and pubs where people have been gashed in the face with beer glasses.

In the first eight mooths of last year, its casualty department dealt with 415 assault victims brought in from pubs and clubs in the city. A league table of 60 of the worst offending hostelries was released. Since then it is estimated that assaults have dropped by a fifth. The scheme has woo governmeot funding and Mr Straw said: "There's oo reason why that should oot be developed across the country."

Among other anti-alcohol and anti-violence initiatives are greater regulation of bouncers at pubs and clubs, more safety beer glasses, CCTV near trouble spots, and the use of under-aged drinkers to make "test purchases" in off-licences and pubs to try to catch out law-

M25 witness 'was paid by the police'

THREE MEN who have spent By JASON BENNETTO the past 10 years in jail for a Crime Correspondent murder and a series of violent robberies have had their case referred to the Court of Appeal.

Michael Davis, Randolph Johnson and Raphael Rowe, known as the M25 Three, were jailed for life in 1990 for the offences carried out close to the London orbital motorway, but have always denied their guilt.

One of the men's solicitors claimed yesterday that a witness at their trial was paid £10,000 by a national newspaper and £300 by the police. Other documents are reported to show that one or two white people were involved in the crimes, while the "M25 Three" are all hlack. A witness at their trial is by the Court of Appeal in 1993. also said to have now with-

drawn his evidence The men were jailed after an cember 1988. Peter Hurburgh, , 57, was dragged from his car at gunpoint with his homosexual lover. They were tied up and beaten, which led to Mr Hurburgh suffering a fatal heart

During the same night, three men wearing balaclavas, and armed with weapons including a machete and a gun, broke into a house. Timothy Napier, 40, almost died after the assailants broke into his father's house and stabbed him during a struggle. In a third assault a couple were tied up at their home. The crimes were linked to a string of other offences, in-

cluding a rape. The three accused were arrested several weeks after the

The case was based almost entirely on the evidence of three other suspects who turned prosecution witnesses.

No direct scientific or identification evidence linked the "M25 Three" to the crimes. One of the victims of the attacks said two white men and one black were

The three appealed against their convictions but their case was dismissed by the Court of Appeal in July 1993.

James Nichol, solicitor for Rowe, said yesterday that he had heen given documents showing that a principal prosecution witness, Norman Duncan, was paid: "This information was withheld from

"In addition, a prisoner who fendant Randolph Johnson now Old Bailey trial for a series of says that the evidence was not attacks on the night of 16 De- true." He added that the Criminal Cases Review Commission had uncovered many matters that indicated the men

> The commission ordered a new police investigation into the case, which was carried out by Greater Manchester Police. The Court of Appeal last month decided to lift court orders, imposed on the grounds of public interest, which prevented the defence seeing details of payments to a witness.

had not had a fair trial.

The court's decision came after the European Commission of Human Rights ruled in March that the three were denied a fair trial.

A campaign group for the three men said they were all "absolutely delighted" with the

latest news. The case will oow go to the Court of Appeal, which will decide whether the convictions

should be quashed.

Schools funding is 'semi-corrupt'

terday of building more than £500m in reserves rather than spending money on cutting class sizes, employing teachers and buying books.

The National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers, at its annual conference in Eastbourne, said the funds, which would pay for 23,000 teachers, were being "squirreled away".

Nigel de Gruchy, the union's general secretary, accused secretary of the Secondary some headteachers of building Heads Association, said: "I up reserves to fund their own would strongly reject the sugdiscretionary pay rises. He said: "The heads have got their noses in the trough. The system

Delegates were told that one

SCHOOLS WERE accused yes- BY BEN RUSSELL **Education Correspondent**

> London school was holding reserves of £800,000, while others were profiteering by replacing experienced teachers with cheap, newly qualified staff.

> Delegates backed a called for fundamental reform of the school funding system and called on the Government to launch an inquiry.

But John Dunford, general gestion that the system is open to corruption. It is good housekeeping to have a reasonable balance ... as a safeguard in times of financial uncertainty."

STEVE CONNOR



You could easily conclude that mobile phones can cook our brains



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Sales of 'rip-off' football shirts slump mise!

By LINUS GREGORIADIS AND NICK HARRIS

THE LATEST in a long line of England football strips was unveiled yesterday amid growing evidence that fans' appetite for expensive replica kits is shrink-

ing rapidly.
With football league teams changing their kits repeatedly, tootball strips have become a £200m-a-year industry, adding large sums to club coffers, par-

ticularly in the Premiership. But the appeal of having the most up-to-date kit appears to be diminishing as football shirts lose their fashion status and fans become increasingly disillusioned at their cost.

A report to be published by the Government's Football Task Force this summer will reveal that nearly all supporters believe that they are being charged too much for shirts. Fans also believe that strips are changed far too regularly.

John Williams, director of the Sir Norman Chester Centre for Football Research at Leicester University, said: "The research we did suggests that the cost is certainly a factor ... It may also be that although people are still interested in having new strips, there are a lot of strips already in circulation, which will slow down purchase. Strips are overlapping and there is not an awful lot of difference between them. People seem willing to live longer with older strips."

The clubs are starting to feel the effects of this change. Manchester United announced last week that its merchandis-

CLUBS' DROP IN PROFITS

Newcastle United £3.3m branded-product sales over the past six on £5.5m figure for the

In the past six months. merchandising profits have fallen by 20 per cent to

Tottenham Hotspur £2m income from shirt sales over the first half of this season - 13 per cent down

Nottingham Forest Sales of replica kits 30 per cent down on 1996. The club has sold less than half of what it budgeted for.

ing profits - largely from the sale of replica tops - have tumbled by 20 per cent to £12.4m in six months. Newcastle United, Spurs and Nottingham Forest have also said they are making considerably less money from shirt sales and other merchandise (see panel).

At Newcastle, the decline may have ben compounded by newspaper revelations about two of its directors, Freddie Shepherd and Douglas Hall, who boasted - among other things - that fans were paying £40 for shirts that cost only £5

England's new home kit,

manufactured by Umbro. was launched by some of the team's stars yesterday afternoon at the BBC Match of the Day Live exhibition at the National Exhi-

bition Centre in Birmingham. Despite the high-profile launch, Umbro representatives were unwilling to comment on the new strip or the downturn in sales of replica kits in general. Asked if regular kit relaunches were simply a way of boosting sales, a marketing department spokesman said: "I wouldn't oe able to answer that."

There a clue, however, in the official press release that accompanied the launch. The final line said: "As with all Umbro kits, it [the new strip] has a lifespan of two years and will be worn until 2001."

David Conn, author of The Football Business, a book examining the transformation of the game in the 1990s, said declining shirt sales were indicative of widespread disillusionment with commercialism among supporters.

He said: "However loyal supporters are, they have only got a certain amount of money. Fans are starting to think that paying £80 every season is a bit too much. People who were re-ally into the shirts when they first started to take off now think it is a hit rip-off. Fans are becoming a lot wiser.

"Perhaps this decline in shirt sales is the first sign of supporters becoming jaded by the commercialism of the game. It could be a sign that the bubble is bursting as people wonder how wholesome the state of the game really is.



The England footballers Alan Shearer, David Seaman and Michael Owen modelling the new kit at the NEC yesterday

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Teenage star Owen signs £1m book deal

MICHAEL OWEN, the 19-year-old England footballer, will tell Arts News Editor his brief but eventful life story for a £1m negotiated with the publisher HarperCollins.

As part of a three-book deal the Liverpool striker will also produce a soccer skills book and a scrapbook chronicling in pictures and words his early years in the game. But The Independent has learnt that Oweo will find the demands of a major international publishing house are considerably more stringent than those of a premier league club.

If the player is seriously injured over the next three years or moves to a foreign club the book deal may fall through. Tom Whiting, a senior editor

Conditions are being inserted into the contract to that effect. at HarperCollins and the man dealing with the Owen books. confirmed this yesterday. He said: "We need to look carefully at the agreements we are

making with Michael's agent. Injury is something we don't want to think about, but with a threebook deal if he moves to a foreign club or gets injured we will have to look at the deal again." Owen, who is said to be re-

markably clear headed and forward thinking for 19, has been looking for a publisher for his autobiography for some months. The success of the ghost-written life of fellow England star Tony Adams, a cut above the usual sports memoir, particularly impressed him and made him want to work with the same firm. HarperCollins has also published memoirs by football stars

Ian Wright and Peter Beardsley. HarperCollins has insisted that the autobiography includes passages with Owen's thoughts on his colleagues and on his England managers, Glenn Hoddle and Kevin Keegan.

embarrassment and to allow him to be more outspoken, the autobiography will not be published until after the next World Cup, in 2002. The 110,000-word book will be ghost-written, although a writer has not yet

been signed up. In any other walk of life an autobiography by someone so young would be a rarity. Not so in sport. The former England cricket captain David Gower wrote his in his early twenties. And the relatively short careers of football players particularly oecessitate bending the normal rules of publishing.

HarperCollins will oeed a writer who will make Owen's footballer-speak a little more interesting than his statement yesterday. He said: "I'm very excited to be working with Harper-Collins. It's a great opportunity to pass on the skills I've learnt to young footballers everywhere and to tell my own story."



حكذا من الاحل

Investors

VDEPENDENT &

Chinese trade bid · caught in spy trap

the Chinese Prime Minister. Zhu Rongji, spent more than four hours in talks at the White House yesterday, but the prize for which Mr Zhu had travelled half way across the world - US approval for China's membership of the World Trade Organisation - still seemed

White House officials spoke of the imminence of a "framework agreement" that would set a "firmer timeline" for China's accession to the WTO, but obstacles remained - not least increasingly vocal suspicions from the US political right of China's intentions.

Mr Zhu's visit - the first official visit by a Chinese prime minister for 15 years - has become entangled with a spate of allegations about Chinese nuclear espionage and the renewal of allegations that China tried illegally to channel funds to the Clinton-Gore campaign for the last presidential election. The New York Times yesterday cited intelligence reports that China had stolen secrets that had enabled it to improve its neutron bomb technology. The leak, according to the paper. took place in 1995 - so contradicting the administration's in- note about not making an sistence that there have been no thefts of secrets by China in

Mr Clinton's time. The neutron bomb allegation came hard on the heels of a twomonth-old spy scandal about the alleged theft from the national laboratory at Los Alamos of nuclear secrets, which allegedly enabled China to develop miniaturised nuclear warheads. These allegations, which are the subject of four investigations, have so far resenior scientist and - only this Nato's military action.

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PRESIDENT BILL Clinton and By MARY DEJEVSKY in Washington

> week - the shutting down of computers at nuclear research centres for security checks.

> Such was the hostility being whipped up around Mr Zhu's visit that Mr Clinton scheduled an address on the eve of the visit to lecture his opponents about the risks of alienating China and to warn against making relations with China a party political issue.

"As the next presidential election approaches," he said, we cannot allow a healthy argument to lead us towards a campaign-driven cold war with China. This would have tragic consequences: an America riven by mistrust and bitter accusations, an end to diplomatic contacts that have produced tangible gains for our people, a climate of mistrust that hurts Chinese-Americans and undermines the exchanges that are opening China to the

While echoing the defence of US rapprochement with China, which he had delivered on the eve of the Chinese President's visit to Washington last year, Mr Clinton sounded a more urgent enemy of China.

That may have reflected White House worries about being at odds with Russia and China at the same time. The diplomatic fall-out for US-Russian relations from Nato's military action over Kosovo has yet to be fully gauged, but Mr Clinton went out of his way yesterday at the official welcoming ceremony to thank Mr Zhu twice - for proceeding with his visit, which had been in doubt suited in the dismissal of one_ after Peking joined criticism of



A highway patrol trooper walking on the steps of the Statehouse in Topeka, Kansas, among 105 cut-outs of children placed there to mark Child Abuse Prevention Month AP

Timor militia fights for its survival

TWO THOUSAND East Timor militiamen paraded with swords and iron bars yesterday, declaring that they would fight against supporters of indepeodence to preserve Indonesian rule over the territory.

"We are ready to ask the Indonesian military to leave us and let the world know that we are still capable of defending the red-and-white flag in East

in Jakarta Mariana, a town west of the

BY DIARMID O'SULLIVAN

capital, Dili, controlled by the Red and white are the na-

tional colours of Indonesia, which invaded East Timor in 1975 and has ruled there ever since with the help of Timorese officials and soldiers. Indooesia Timor," Eurico Guterres, a said in January that it might hardline supporter of Jakarta, agree to let the arid half-island told the assembled men at secede, terrifying the pro-

Jakarta Timorese who now risk losing everything.

The militiameo have been

killing supporters of East Timor's independence and destroying their houses for months. Some are reported by local human rights activists to

be carrying semi-automatic weapoos issued by the Indooesian army, but they tend to hide them when foreign reporters and camera crews are

On Tuesday, several hun-

dred of them attacked a church and a priest's house in the village of Liquica, oot far from Mariana. Bishop Carlos Belo, head of the local Catholic

into the bouse. A local human rights group, HAK, believes that 52 people were killed and their bodies thrown into the nearby sea. It says Indonesian troops were involved in the shooting. The In-

donesian army, which portrays

Church, says 25 people were

killed when militiamen fired

the violence as an internal Timorese affair, says only five people died

The violence has already raised doubts about talks at the United Nations on East Timor's future, even though all sides say they want the talks to go ahead. Jakarta said yesterday that a meeting between officials of Indonesia and Portugal, planned for 13 April, had been postponed to an undecided date because of "technical problems". Portugal used

The militiamen say they are reacting to a call from the imprisoned leader of East Timor's independence movement, Jose Alexandre Xanana Gusmao. On Monday he urged his followers to start an uprising against Indooesian rule. After international protests, Gusmao softened his line. He now stresses that supporters of independence should defeod themselves but not attack mili-

to rule East Timor as a colony.

Oueen's visit to Australia is

THE QUEEN will visit Australia By JOANNA JOLLY in the first half of next year, in Sydney Buckingham Palace said yesterday, well after the November referendum on whether the country should become a

The Prime Minister, John Duke of Edinburgh would not become embroiled in any controversy surrounding the referendum on 6 November on whether to sever links with the British monarchy

Australian government had advised the Queen on the timing.

Nevertheless, the Queen's trip is likely to generate a hostile response from the growing number of Australians who sup-

five to seven years, does not live here, has never lived here and will never live here," said Wayne Burns from the Australian Republican Movement.

> country was in 1992. The Daily Telegraph, a Sydney tabloid newspaper, reported that Mr Howard will formally announce the outcome of the referendum to the Queen at a Commonwealth heads of government meeting in South

Africa later that month. Final

tralians very starkly that their plans for the Australia visit bead of state only visits every will be made at that meeting. The pro-monarchy move-

ment sees the visit as a chance to cement the relationship between the Queen and Australian people. Kerry Jones of The Queen's last visit to this Australians for Constitutional Monarchy said: "We believe we will win the referendum soundly, therefore we hope it will be a celebration of a great victory

against the republicans." If November's vote goes in favour of a republic. Australia's first president will take office on

timed to avoid referendum

Buckingham Palace said the

Mr Howard said: "By coming next year, she is free of the debate about the republic. I think Howard, said the timing of the all Australians, whether or not visit meant the Queen and the they want a republic, would welcome the visit."

port the republican movement. "This visit will show Aus-

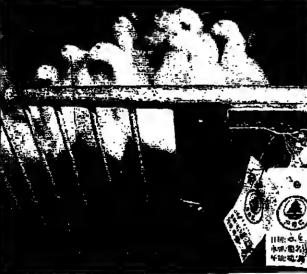
lier outbreak, a much stricter hy-1.5 million chickens to eradicate giene regime for poultry was introduced. However, two weeks the disease when an outhreak ago a sub-strain of H5NI was Two girls, aged one and four, found in a consignment of live ducks and geese at a market.

in the region have been diag-Yesterday, Stephen Lam. a nosed with the aecond strain which has been identified by exgovernment spokesman, adperts from the United States mitted that there was no way to Centers for Disease Control prevent the spread of bird flu but said officials were urgentas H9N2 - but have recovered. Meanwhile, the authorities oo ly looking into the source of the the Chinese mainland have virus, its mode of transmisconfirmed that five cases of it sion and what new measures were identified in the southern could be taken against it.

Hong Kong has a record of deprovinces last year. veloping such diseases. The hird Like the original virus - classified as H5N1- the latest flu flu identified in 1997, followed a particularly virulent flu virus io spreads from poultry to people, although the method of trans-1968, which caused the deaths of mission is not clear After the ear- 46,500 people worldwide.

New deadly bird flu appears A NEW strain of bird influenza has emerged in Hong Kong, 16 months after the territory slaughtered its entire stock of

killed six people.



Ducks tagged fit to sell in Hong Kong's market. Poultry retailers said sales dropped at news of the bird flu AP

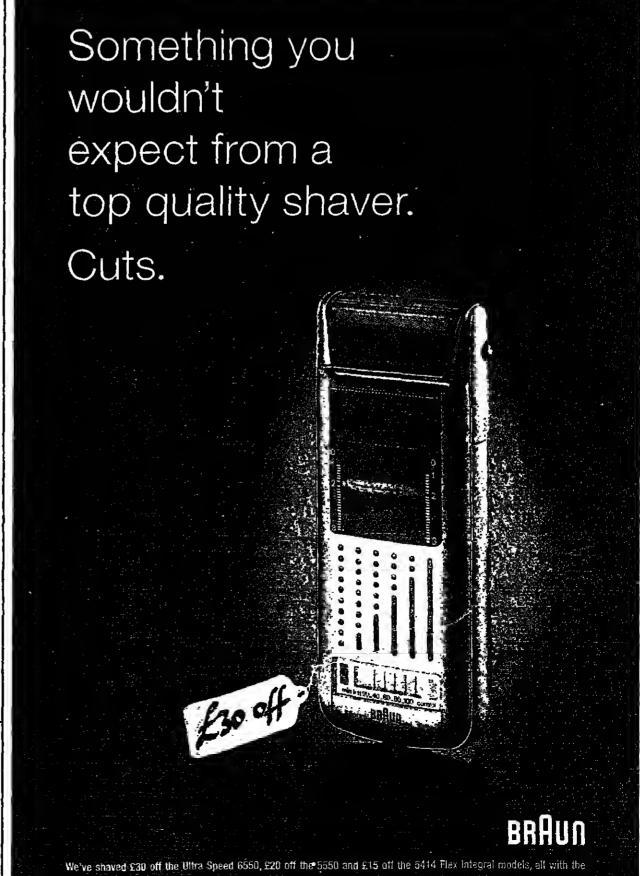
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Match 5 plus bonus ball	1.4	£89.S51	£1,253,714
Match 5	401	£1,954	£783,554
Metch 4	23,054	£74	£1,705,996
Metch 3	462,809	£10	£4,828,090
TOTALS	488,279		£12,445,960

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Epernay, Le Thibault IV

Situated 20 kms south of Epernay on the Champagne Route in the heart of the Champagne region, Le Thibault offers a good standard of accommodation with reasonably sized rooms and ensuite bathrooms. The hotel's restaurant is well known across the Champagne area serving both gastronomic menus and champagne dinners. The hotel can arrange a free visit to local wine cellars and although this does not include wine tasting, we're sure that it will be an insight into the Champagne world!

Troyes, Foret d'Orient ***

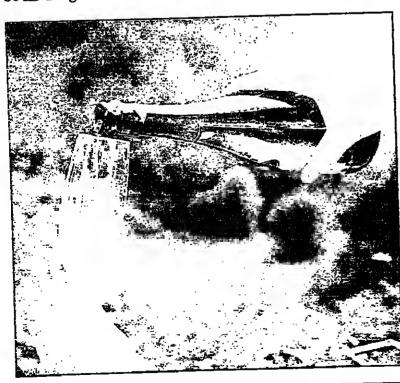
Beautiful natural setting, in the heart of the Champagne region, between two lakes for water sports and on an 18-hole golf course. 15 kms from medieval Troyes and 100 kms from the Epernay champagne cellars. Relax around the heated pool, enjoy a round of golf or archery (both payable locally), or exercise in the free fitness room. The generous sized rooms offer satellite TV, telephone and lovely bathrooms with separate w.c. The restaurant has a poolside terrace offering good value menus. Family rooms available.

Epernay, Hostellerie de la Reine Blanche Reims, L'Assiette Champenoise ***

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Located just 2 kms from the centre of Reims with its magnificent Gothic cathedral and famous champagne cellars. Set in large grounds, this exquisite hotel offers excellent facilities and a high level of comfort in relaxing surroundings. In addition to the heated indoor swimming pool, guests have free use of the sauna. A gastronomic experience at the popular restaurant is certainly not to he missed. All hedrooms have satellite TV and mini-har, buffet breakfast and private outdoor parking.



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احكدا من الاصل

SEND TO: The Independent Champagne Offer,

peace splits guru disciples

THE GREAT guru himself By Jason Burke might have approved of the in Islamahad dispute, although that is unlikely. Bhagwan Shree Rajnesh - better known as "Osho" - was. after all, no stranger to controversy. As one of the most popular and flamboyant of the south Asian religious leaders, who brought their mix of pop philosophy and Indian mysticism to the world's spiritually starved masses of the Seventies, he was quite at bome in the struggle between the forces of commercialism and the path to true wisdom.

Osho died nine years ago after establishing his eclectic brand of hippy-dippy irrationalism, sexual therapy and ancient learning across the globe. Now his successors, if recent press reports are to be believed, have fallen to squabbling about how to further his teachings. At stake is the future of an organisation with offices in more than 80 countries, 750 "centres of meditation" and

over 2 million paid-up devotees. The centre of the Osho Commune International is in the industrial southern Indian city of Pune. Every week, at one of India's biggest ashrams, hundreds of sanyasis sign on, and pay for, "a wide variety of personal growth courses". Days begin with "Dynamic Meditation" at 6am, and end with "the evening gathering of the entire community for the Meeting of the White Robe Brotherhood a celebration of high-energy

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Osho: divisive teaching

itation", according to the commune's promotional literature. However, it is the concept of "Buddha the Zorba" - Osho's

teaching on the conflict of God and Mammon - that is proving divisive. Osbo believed that spirituality and profit were not necessarily mutually exclusive. Given his taste for luxury cars. and the fraud charge brought against him by authorities in America, this may not seem surprising, yet it has provoked fierce controversy.

The resignation of Ma Yoga Neelam, one of Osbo's closest associates, from the Inner Circle - the 21-member group be appointed to run the commune after his death - has brought argument over the real mesdancing and silent-sitting med- the dispute into the open. sage of Buddha the Zorba.

Swami Chaitanya Keerti, says that Neelam, a housewife who joined the Osho commune during its temporary translocation to Oregon in the early Eighties, has resigned ber executive posts to concentrate on "inward meditation". But among the disciples rumours are rife that she left amid a dispute over plans to rename the complex at Pune a "resort" after building more luxurious facilities, to up the price of the thousands of books and videos promoting the guru's message,

There are also dark stories of power struggles with the Inner Circle's reclusive chairman, Swami Jayesh. He is accused of being dictatorial and distant. Again this is denied by Swami Chaitanya Keerti. "Swami Jayesb is rarely bere so how can he be dictatorial?" Keerti said yesterday.

and to increase the price of food

at the complex.

And there are other clouds appearing in the commune's sky. Old allegations of drugdealing and sexual orgies are being levelled at the devotees.

But business is still good. The "mystic rose" course is as popular as ever, and Osho's books on the achievement of enlightenment through free sex are more widely read than ever before. A record number of sanyasis are flocking to Pune. And, as they settle down for some serious spirituality few of them appear to worry about any

Price of inner Old Fritz marches into a battle over the company he keeps

EUROPEAN TIMES

BERLIN

THIS CITY is growing before our very eyes. Upwards at a vertiginous pace in its hollow centre, outwards spilling into villages to accommodate new arrivals from pastoral Bonn, and together along the fault lines of history. This much is taken for granted, and you will hear barely a murmur about the clashing styles that modern architecture is inflicting upon the new Berlin.

But there is another development, a kind of mental archaeology that strips away layers of the past, hringing to the surface what was once considered lost. Not everybody rejoices at this undertaking. There are too many ghosts for a country striving to forget.

Take a walk down Unter den Linden - Berlin's Champs-Elvsées without the shops - and you will find an empty plinth near its eastern end. A bronze statue of Frederick the Great on horseback normally sits on it. Frederick, affectionately known to locals as "Old Fritz". was plucked away for renovation a year ago and is due to return before the end of the year.

That should put an end to his meanderings, banished as he had been by East Germany to Potsdam for the double crime of having been a royal and a Prussian to boot. The Communists rehabilitated him in 1980 and put him back on his pedestal, which had been moved 14 metres to the east because beating pipes had invaded his spot in his absence.

Now the plinth is to go back those 14 metres, so that the

Frederick the Great, 'Old Fritz', is to return to his plinth in Berlin Hans Edinger

sians though they might be, are

not a problem. They are al-

ready near by, tucked away in

a side street by the Commu-

nists. Their names - Bhicher.

Yorck and Gneisenau - conjure

up memories of when Prussia

fought alongside Britain

against Napoleon. The picture

of Blücher embracing Welling-

ton on the blood-soaked fields

of Waterloo is as evocative and

conclusive as the image of So-

on the roof of the Reichstag.

philosopher king, a friend of Voltaire's and an accomplished flute player, can return to his rightful home. But he might not make it. For Frederick threatens to march back in the company of five Prussian generals. to the consternation of relatives of a pacifist sculptor and the post-Communist politicians in charge of this part of town.

This is, after all, hallowed ground, venerated first by the Nazis, then by the Communists and finally turned into a peace shrine by Helmut Kohl's government after reunification. Three of the generals, Prus-

But what of the other two generals, whose statues disappeared upon the Communist

takeover, and are now languishing in some vault? They are, on the face of it, no more discredited representatives of "Prussian militarism" than their long-forgiven colleagues. Yet Generals von Bülow and Scharnhorst, also of Napoleonic wars fame, pose the biggest obstacle to the grand Prussian reunion on Berlin's faded thoroughfare. Some fear their return would delve into a layer

viet soldiers raising the red flag of history best left untouched. Von Bülow and Scharnhorst used to stand on columns flanking the Neue Wache, a

came to be dedicated to Germans who fell in the First World War. The Nazis brought their colourful pageantry here. Unwittingly, the two generals became the pictorial frame of Germany's military revival and thirst for vengeance. Off they went in 1945, as the Neue Wache stood abandoned, before its eventual renovation and reopening in 1960 as the memorial to the victims of fascism and militarism". When that was over, the Kohl government ordered a revamp. installing an enlarged reproduction of Mother With Her Dead Child by the pacifist sculptress Käthe Kollwitz.

Kollwitz died in 1945, but her heirs insisted that the generals should never return. Those who run Berlin have different deas. "We would like to recreate the authentic historical setting of the area, and would therefore like to bring all five generals back," says Frank Hesse of the city's office for the preservation of monuments.

This endeavour is supported by the regional government, but not by the local council, which happens to be run by the ex-Communists of the Party of Democratic Socialism. They say they will never sanction the re-creation of Prussia's via triumphalis in the beart of the city. Frederick can come, but not all the generals. In the absence of an agreement, they threaten to block all plans to restore Unter den Linden to its former glory.

Thus has "Old Fritz" become part of a package deal, while beneath his vacant plinth all layers of Germany's recent history converge



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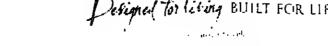
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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Insurance firms face £14bn bill

INSURANCE COMPANIES are facing a £14bn hill to pay for guaranteed annuities offered to pensinn customers in the past - at least £4bn more than was previously thought. Standard & Poor's, the credit reference agency, said a survey of life insurers showed the sector would have to set aside £14hn in reserves because of stricter-than-expected guidance on the issue from the Government.

Guaranteed annuities, offered to bundreds of thousands of private pension savers between 1963 and 1995, promised a minimum rate of retirement income from pension savings. The cost to insurers is much higher than paying a normal annuity under current market conditions.

Mew team bags Tetley's top slot



TETLEY, THE secondlargest tea-bag husiness in the world, unveiled a new top management team vesterday with Kenneth Pringle (pictured) as chief executive officer and Peter Unswirth as finance directur. The duo replace Leon Allan and Roger Price respectively, who agreed last mouth to hand over the next phase of Tetley's expansion to its existing

management team. Mr Pringle was inrmerly managing director of Tetley GB, while Mr Unsworth was group director of planning and accounting.

FSA hands out fines of £42,000

THE FINANCIAL Services Authority, the City financial watchdog, yesterday meted out fines totalling £42,000 in two unrelated cases involving dealers in the Square Mile, Leslie Commons, an interdealer broker in Italian bonds at Cantor Fitzgerald, was fined £20,000 but had that reduced on appeal to £10,000 plus £5,000 costs. Separately, Baljeet Janjuah, former co-head of the global asset swap group at Swiss Bank Corporation and Riad Melit.i a junior member of the Middle East desk, were fined £30,000 and £2,000 respectively.

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F7SE 330	305170	-13,00	-0.42	3073 90	2210,40	2.55
FTSE All Share	2951.64	-11.42	-0.39	2971 79	2143.53	2.60
F7SE SmallCap	2420 70	9 60	0.40	2793,80	1834,40	3.58
FTSE Fledgling	1316.50	4 40	0.34	1517.10	1046.20	3.95
FTSE PAM	370.30	0.70	0.08	1146 90	761.30	1.18
FTSE Eurotop 100	2987.07	0.88	0.03	3079.27	2018.15	1.93
F7SE Eurotop 300	1284.57	0.37	0.03	1332.07	880.63	1.88
Dow Jones	10077.54	-3.05	-0.05	10089 75	7400.30	1.57
Nikker	16846.69	292 19	1,77	16756.89	12787.90	0.76
Hang Seng	11727 84	112.97	0.97	11630.47	6544.79	3.02
Cusi	5068.75	16 48	0.33	6217.83	3833.71	1.62
SJP 500	1327 73	1 12	0.08	1329.65	923.32	1,21
lasdeq	2544 46	1.49	0.06	2596.25	1357.09	0.28
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Brazil Bovespa	11660.83	127 74	1.11	12339,14	4575.69	3.11
Belgium Bel20	3321 41	-12 53	-0.38	3713 21	2696,26	1.98
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France CAC 40	4330.70	12.66	0 29	4404 94	2881 21	1.67
Milan MIB30	37152.00	87.00	0.24	39170.00	24175.00	1.04
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NTEREST RATES

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index	3 month	Yr cbg	1 Year	Yr chg	10 year	Yr chg	Long bond	Yr chg
UK:	5 31	2 25	5.28	-2.28	4 44	-1.32	4.42	-1.25
US	5 00	-0.56	5 24	-0.55	5.10	0.48	5.48	0.41
laphn	0 17	-0.51	0 24	-0.46	1.60	-0.33	2 37	-0.18
Germany	2.89	-0.73	2 90	-1.02	3.92	-0 94	4.86	-0.55

S/£	€/£	¥/£
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ex	1 470	192
547 N T W 1	1 450	190 F M T W

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	ar Spm	Cprofe	"Yt Ago		at Span	Change	Yr Ago		
Collar	1 6082	+1.24c	1.6740	Sterling	0.6218	-0 48p	0.5974		
Guro.	1 4338	+0.400	1.4079	Euro	0,9229	-15.54c	0.8571		
Yen	194.38	+ <u>¥0</u> 74	220.29	Yen_	120 80	-YO 56	131.21		
i Inde	102.60	+0.70	197 40	Sindes	108.50	-0.40	110 10		

OTHER INDICATORS

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Gold (S)	280 05	-0.50	309.45	PP1	163 70	2 10	160 33	Mar
Silver (5)	4 98	0.02	6 46	Base	Pates	5 25		
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www.bloomberg	.com/uk	SOURCE: BLOOMBE				
I() TO	URIST	RATES				
Australia (5)	2.4787	Mexican (nuevo peso)	13.83			
Austria (schillings)	19.78	Netherlands (guilders)	3.1708			
Belgium (francs)	58.17	New Zealand (\$)	2.8982			
Canada (S)	2.3374	Norway (kroner)	12.15			
Consus (pounds)	0.8309	Portugal (escudos)	287.27			

Australia (5)	2.4787	Mexican (nuevo peso)	13.83
Austria (schillings)	19.78	Netherlands (guilders)	3.1708
Belgium (francs)	58.17	New Zealand (\$)	2.8982
Canada (5)	2.3374	Norway (kroner)	12.15
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8309	Portugal (escudos)	287.27
Denmark (kroner)	10.77	Saudi Arabia (rials)	5.8306
Finland (markka)	8.5858	Singapore (S)	2,6219
France (francs)	9 4378	South Africa (rands)	9,5231
Germany (marks)	2.8250	Spain (pesetas)	239.15
Greece (drachma)	466.47	Sweden (kronor)	12.95
Hong Kong (\$)	12.03	Switzerland (francs)	2.3084
Ireland (punts)	1.1323	Thailand (bahts)	54.40
Indian (rupees)	61.38	Turkey (Jirasi)	579776
Israel (shekels)	5.9618	USA (\$)	<u>1.5632</u>
(aly Hira)	2801		
Japan (ven)	189.48	Rates for Indication purp	oses only

5,7700

Source: Thomas Cook

Malaysia (ringgits)

Rates slashed across Europe Mortgage lenders

fail to pass on quarter-point cut

THE BANK of England cut BY DIANE COYLE interest rates yesterday for the sixth time in seven months. to a grudging welcome from in-dustry. Rates fell by a quarterpoint to 5.25 per cent. their

lowest since February 1994. However, for the first time in the run of reductions since October, few mortgage lenders followed the Bank's move. Virgin Direct matched the cut, but the biggest lenders merely said they would keep their rates under review.

The Monetary Policy Comsurge of confidence about the economy in the currency markets, where it was seen as a vindication of last month's Budget. The pound climbed until the European Central Bank's surprise move sent the euro soaring.

But many in industry were less optimistic, calling for UK rates to fall even closer to every time the MPC has acted in recent months.

Kate Barker of the Confederation of British Industry described yesterday's decision as "useful", but added: "A half percentage-point cut would have been justified." Ian Peters. deputy director-general of the British Chambers of Commerce. said: "We must ultimately achieve levels to match our euro zone competitors." However. Ken Jackson of the AEEU engineering union said: 'This is good news for manufacturing, but we must be careful not to view interest rates as a panacea."

The City broadly agreed.

AND ANDREW GRICE

Robert Barrie of CSFB said: "I can understand manufacturers feeling under pressure, but that has a lot to do with the world economy and not much to do

with UK interest rates." There was no clue from the Bank about future moves, as it issued no statement. Some MPC-watchers saw this as a signal of a split vote.

Most City experts now see little scope for further cuts, exmittee's decision sparked a pecting rates to level out at 5 per cent by the summer. A final rate cut could come next month. with the publication of the Bank's new inflation forecast.

Some were positively uneasy about the MPC's move in the light of recent upbeat signals on the economy, David Mackie, an economist at JP Morgan, said: "We must be close to the trough. European levels, as they have The economy is enjoying a vigorous spring recovery." And Neil Parker of Royal Bank of Scotland said the cut was a

> The Government's hopes of reaping political benefit from the string of interest-rate cuts have heen dealt a blow by the Labour Party's private opinion polling.

It suggests voters helieve governments no longer control the economy. "This makes it dif-ficult to pin the blame for the 1981 and 1991 recessions on the Tories, It also means that Labour cannot take full credit for recent falls in interest rates." says a summary of the polling Outlook, page 19



The ECB president Wim Duisenberg at the ECB meeting in Frankfurt yesterday

ECB surprises with half-point reduction to 2.5%

THE EUROPEAN Central Bank By LEA PATERSON last night wrong-footed its critics and delighted the markets with a surprise 0.5 percentage point cut in interest rates.

The move, the ECB's first since formally taking control of European monetary policy at the beginning of the year, takes interest rates in the euro-zone down to just 2.5 per cent, less than half their level in the UK.

Wim Duisenberg, ECB president, said the cut had been approved by a "very large majority" of the bank's governing council. "My message is that today's measures should increase the confidence of the man in the street in the ECB as a guardian of their values."

Market analysts cheered the decision, although the euro fell below \$1.08 after briefly spiking higher following the cut.

European stock markets had already closed by the time the ECB announced its decision, hut the move is expected to send equities soaring when markets re-open today

They've done the right thing, although I'm surprised they've hitten the hullet like this", said Sharda Persaud at Parihas, Alison Cottrell at PaineWebber said: "It looks like they're following the central bank mantra that rates should be as high as necessary. hut as low as possible".

Comments from Mr Duisenberg suggested that last night's surprise decision would mark the end of the current rate-cut-

to be as convincing as possible because we were afraid a smaller move would only have led to expectations for the future."

Neil Parker at Royal Bank of Scotland said: "I think that the ECB is sending a message to Europe's governments that any further lobbying will fall on deaf ears."

The ECB's decision was triggered by a combination of economic and political pressures. according to analysts.

On the economic front, business confidence has fallen sharply in the euro-zone since the beginning of the year. There have also been particular concerns over the outlook for Germany, although Mr Duisenberg stressed last night that the move was not aimed specifically

at any one European country. Political factors included both the departure four weeks ago of Oskar Lafontaine - the former German finance minister whose calls for interest rate cuts infuriated ECB officials and bebind-the-scenes pressure from both the IMF and the

The next summit of G7 finance ministers and central bankers, due to take place later this month at the spring meetings of the IMF and the World Bank, is also thought to have been a significant factor.

Ms Cottrell said: "The ECB might have wanted to cut before the IMF/World Bank meetings ting cycle in Europe. He told re- so they don't get the Americans porters: "We wanted the move hreathing down their necks."

Stationery Office chiefs Supermarkets to face set for £13m windfall

BY MICHAEL HARRISON **Business Editor**

TRREE TOP executives at the Stationery Office, led by the former deputy governor of the Bank of England Rupert Pennant-Rea, are set to make a profit of up to £13m following the demerger of the company yesterday in preparation for a trade sale or fintation.

Mr Pennant-Rea, who led the takeover of the husiness when it was controversially privatised in 1996, owns a 4.5 per cent stake in the company. The sharebolding cost him 260,000 and is now worth an estimated £4.5m.

The Stationery Office's chief executive. Bob Thian, stands to make a windfall gain of £5.9m on his 6 per cent stake and the finance director Richard Martin. who owns a 3 per cent stake, is in line for a profit of just under £3m. The venture capital group Electra Fleming owns two-thirds of the company and stands to make the biggest

The National Audit Office criticised the privatisation of the Stationery Office for £54m by the Conservative government. saying the sale had undervalued the business. It is now worth an estimated £150m.

The Stationery Office yesterday announced a 45 per cent increase in operating profits to £18.3m and said the demerger into four independent businesses - publishing, office supplies, document management and security printing - had been Mr Pennant-Rea said: "We



Rupert Pennant-Rea: His original £60,000 stake in the Stationery Office is now worth an estimated £4.5m

told the staff when we bought the husiness that it had had one owner for 210 years but do not assume it will have the same one for the next 210. Venture capital providers want to realise their investments."

Mr Pennant-Rea will be chairman of all four businesses. Mr Thian, a former chief executive of North West Water, will resign as chief executive with a pay off of £167.500 equivalent to one year's salary. Mr Martin who is quitting as finance director will get a \$129,000 payoff. and monopolies reports.

Each will remain a nonexecutive director of one of the

demerged businesses The new company, to be known as Stationery Office Holdings, publishes 88 million pages of parliamentary and government documents a year and also owns Whitaker's Almanack Office supplies is expanding from government offices to sup plying the private sector and security printing produces most confidential government documents, such as Budget papers

monopoly investigation

BRITAINS 250bn supermarket in- BY NIGEL COPE dustry is facing another lengthy investigation into alleged profiteering after the Office of Fair Trading yesterday referred the sector to the Competition Commission.

The commission has been given 12 months to report on whether a monopoly exists amongst the supermarkets and whether they exploit that power against the public interest.

The referral follows an eightmonth investigation by the OFT into the hig four supermarkets -Tesco, Sainsbury's, Asda and Safeway, It indicated last month that a referral was likely. The investigation by the Competition Commission, formerly known as the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, has been widened to include all UK food retailers with more than 10 stores. John Bridgeman, the director

Associate City Editor general of the OFT. said: "After

analysing the profits of the four largest supermarket chains ... I have to conclude that there is a level of profitability here which requires further investigation." He added that the OFT inquiry had raised several com-

petition issues. They include the extent of barriers to entry, the extent to which land prices and site availability affects the cost structure of competing firms; the intensity of price compebtion at a local, regional and national level and the relationship between big multiples and their suppliers, including farmers. Mr Bridgeman said the su-

permarkets had hecome increasingly powerful but that be had been concerned for some time "that this power might have

The hig supermarkets react-

ed calmly to the news, which had been expected. Tesco said it had "every confidence" that the inquiry would give the industry a clean bill of health. Asda said it had "nothing to fear", indicating it had been told by the OFT there would be no problem if the rest of the industry's profit margins were like Asda's.

Some supermarkets complained that the investigation was politically motivated as the Government champions the cause of price comparisons ahead of the UK's potential adoption of the euro. They also said the economic model used by the OFT to examine prices has been "inadequate".

Supermarket sbares were unruffied by the news with Asda trading slightly higher.

Rover misses T-reg bonanza

SALES OF Rover cars rose hy just S per cent last month, even though the overall new car market increased by nearly 75 per cent following the introduction of T registration num-

ber plates. Figures released yesterday by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders show that new car sales in March reached 370,060 - an increase of 73.4 per cent on the 213.374 cars sold in the same month

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

However, Rover only sold 869 more cars, giving it a monthly total of 18.765 or 7 per cent of the market. In contrast. sales of Land-Rover four-wheeldrive vehicles doubled from 3,034 in March 1998 to 6,051.

A Rover spokesman hlamed its poor performance on the withdrawal from sale of the Rover 100 and coupe and cabriolet versions of the Rover 200 and 400, and on the run-down 2.03 million for 1999.

in stocks of the Rover 600 and 800 in readiness for the launch of the Rover 75 in June.

March was the first time the year identifier has been changed to a different month in 32 years. There will be another letter change in September. The move to twice-yearly plate changes is designed to smooth out the traditional August sales hump which accounts for one quarter of annual sales. The SMMT is forecasting sales of

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

AN EIGHT-DAY winning streak ended yesterday with Footsie. despite the expected hase-rate cut. falling 35.3 points (after 68) from its record high to 6.437.9.

Granada and Cariton Communications were among the hest performers, reflecting a better-than-expected take-up of their ONdigital TV service. Granada rose 44p to 1.350p and Carlton 20.5p to 1.380p.

WH Smith, up 75p to 782.5p. and Dixons. 25p to 1.421p, were lifted by their Internet connections. Derek Pain, page 23

TOKYO

US STOCKS shrugged off a bout of carly profit-taking to build on Wednesday's record clase. By midday the Dow had broken through 10,100, up 28 points at 10,113. The Nasdaq Composite

was six pnints higher at 2.550.

NEW YORK

Analysts were cheered by firstquarter results from GE - in line with expectations - and a betterthan-expected first quarter from Internet company Yahoo!. Stocks rose further on the surprise decision by the European Central Bank to cut curo interest rates by half a point to 2.5 per cent.

المكذا من الإصل

JAPANESE stocks lut a 12-month high, boosted by a rally in hi-tech stocks. The benchmark Nikkei 225 rose 292.19 points, or 1.77 per cent, to close at 16,846.69 - the Nikkei's fourth straight day of gains and its highest close since March last year. Among the biggest gainers were

shares of the computer software wholesaler Softbank Corp and its over-the-counter market affiliate. Yahoo Japan. Softbank soured by 12 per cent, and Yahoo Japan leapt 32 per cent after its US parent company, Yahoo! Inc reported better-than-expected earnings.

PARIS

STOCKS set a new 1999 clusing high with traders impeful ahead of the European Central Bank's interest rate decision, which was annunced after the market closed. A modest rise in the Dow Innes in the early afternoon also helped the benchmark Cac-40 index end 0.29 per cent higher at 4,330.70. L'Oreal, the beauty group. was among the major gainers, with the shares surging more than 6 per cent following strong first quarter sales. French banks shed between 3 and 5 per cent following a broker

FRANKFURT

GERMAN markets were jittery ahead of the European Central Bank's interest rate decision, and stocks closed modestly higher in thin trade.

The electronically-traded Xetra Dax closed up 0.8 per cent, or 40.51 points, at 5067.76, while the floor Dax ended 0.33 per cent higher at 5.068.75.

The car group Volkswagen was among the most heavily traded stocks, closing up 0.5 per cent on local press reports that it was planning to raise capital for acquisitions and alliances.

Duisenberg goes from villain to hero

WIM DUISENBERG has transformed himself from villain to hero in one fell swoop. The European Central Bank's surprise decision to slash interest rates to 2.5 per cent yesterday will keep everybody happy - everybody, that is, apart from the voices of British industry and the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee. It is now the MPC which looks like the stick in the mud, despite having cut UK interest rates every month except one since October.

Friday 9 April 1999

Borrowing costs in the UK remain high given that the economy, although landed safely and softly, is still pretty subdued. Not only are rates here more than twice those of Euroland, which admittedly is in the economic doldrums, they are also at similar levels to rates in the US. where the economy is belting along.

There was a flurry of concern last month in the financial markets that the Federal Reserve might have to think about tightening policy. In the event, It did not, and has since signalled pretty clearly that it will not until there are unambiguous signals that inflation is on the rise. The Fed has concluded that the old links from fast growth to low unemployment to wage inflation have broken, and it can afford to experiment with interest



OUTLOOK

rates being lower than at the same stage of previous upturns.

Before the ECB move this could easily be portrayed as American exceptionalism. After all, it is in the US where new technology has made it most plausible to believe there is a new economy. The reluctance of the Europeans to cut rates across the Channel despite no inflation, sluggish economies and high unemployment made the Bank of England look activist by comparison.

And to be fair, it has been pretty activist. UK rates have fallen from 7.5 per cent at the start of October to 5.25 per cent. Long-term interest rates have fallen to their lowest since the late 1960s, a sign of the credibility of the Bank's policies. The falls down through the bank's 13,000 staff, seem to have done the trick - the most recent evidence points to a recovery. The first quarter of this year will probably turn out to have seen the weakest growth, with the economy flat. The landings don't get any softer than that.

Alas, the MPC will not get the credit for it now. Mr Duisenberg has made its members look over-cautious, no matter bow buoyant the British economy turns out to be.

Goldman Sachs

TALK ABOUT the luck of the devil. Just six months ago, Goldman Sachs seemed to be out for the count, its planned IPO floored by the turmoil in equity markets and its profits all but wiped out by a mountain of proprietary trading losses. Now every-thing's fine again, so much so that the price of the IPO is to be upped from the initial range of \$40 to \$50 a share to perhaps as high as \$45 to

Taking the mid point, that would value the investment bank at about \$25bn. So great are the spoils that partners have agreed to cascade more than 20 per cent of the stock

with everyone guaranteed stock worth at least a half their annual salary. Some will do much better.

Meanwhile, the bank is taking on extra office space in London like it was going out of fashion, certain in its view that the European investment banking market will become as big as that of the US, that London will be its centre, and that Goldman Sachs will be one of its dominant forces. Quite a turnaround.

Supermarkets

GIVEN THE head of steam that has built up over "rip-off prices", no one should be surprised that Britain's supermarkets have been referred to our newly named Competition Commission Even the supermarkets themselves are welcoming the new probe, believing, perhaps wrongly, that it will lay the issue to rest once and for all.

There are two key issues for the Competition Commission to address. One is to show that the supermarkets are indeed overcharging shoppers. This is going to be hard in the extreme to prove. And secondly, if they are, what can be done about it.

gued that consumers get the supermarkets and the prices they deserve. For example a recent survey by the Henley Centre showed that British consumers are significantly less bothered about prices than their counterparts in France and Germany. Yes, German prices are lower, but then consumers have to shon in grim environments that would not look out of place in Poland. If Britain wants fole gras and crech-

es, it all comes with a price. Supermarket prices could almost certainly be lower but finding a reasonable way of achieving this goal doesn't come easy.

Regulators could force breakups and disposals but by disrupting economies of scale, this could prove counter productive. Alternatively, the government could introduce price capping but does anyone really want to go back to that kind of command economy approach? There are precedents for this. British Salt, owned by Staveley, is subject to an RPI minus 2 price cap which is monitored by the OFT every five years. It is one of the few examples of price regulation outside the privatised utilities. But think of the practical difficulties of applying price regulation

On the first point it could be ar- across 10,000 or more products.

Another no-no is for the Government to relax planning regulations in an attempt to generate more competition. The resulting building frenzy would destroy more town centres and provoke the environmental lobby.

One solution that might work is for the regulators to look at local monopolies where three of four supermarkets typically have a town stitched up. The government could restrict local market shares which might force Asda and William Morrison, for example to target more markets outside their northern strongholds and Sainsbury's to attack markets further north.

Whatever happens, it is perhaps no bad thing that the lordly supermarkets are baving the frighteners put on them. In itself that might help keep prices lower

ONdigital gain

DESPITE ALL the black propaganda from Sky the numbers will be awful, my dear), the first set of subscription figures from its fledgling pay TV rival, ONdigital, were not at all bad. There's still a long way to go to the 2 million subscribers at which

ONdigital reckons it might break even, but 110,000 in the first four months, and at an accelerating pace too, is respectable enough. There's now every chance of Gerr, Robinson's forecast of 300,000 by the end of September being met. Certainly the Granada chairman has nothing to worry about quite yet.

However, the bigger question - can ONdigital hope to survive against the big battalions of Sky's arguably superior, though more expensive, digital offerings - remains as open as ever. ONdigital had to stretch credulity to breaking point yesterday to support its claim that it is signing up more new subscribers than Sky. This is only true if Sky's figures are reduced pro rata to take account of the fact that transmission problems prevent ONdigital from selling to any more than 70 per cent of the population. In nominal terms, Sky is selling more. Once those switching from analogue to digital are t in a into account, the picture is more one sided

Even so, at this stage ONdigital is defying the sceptics, and its two owners. Granada and Carlton, can feel reasonably confident that their hedge against TV's digital future is eventually going to pay off.



Drinkers in the bar at The Brewery Tap, a Vaux public bouse in Sunderland

Consumer groups criticise utility watchdog reforms

GOVERNMENT PLANS to set up new consumer watchdog bodies covering the gas, electricity, water and telecoms industries came in for heavy criticism vesterday.

Consumer groups warned that the new consumer councils announced by the Energy minister, John Battle, lacked adequate powers and would not have full access to information from the utilities. There was also concern that Mr Battle had not set out a timetable for introducing the legislation. Nor was there any information on the funding of the bodies.

Mr Battle said thal privatised utilibes had put sharebolders'

BY MICHAEL HARRISON **Business Editor**

councils would redress the balance, creating an independent, powerful voice for consumers.

But the Consumers' Association said it was "extremely disappointing" that ministers had chosen to limit the councils' powers. "The Government has missed a golden opportunity to put words into action." it said. The Ofwat National Cus-

tomer Council also cribcised the shortcomings in the powers of the new councils. Sheila Reiter, its chairwoman, said the new bodies would have no powers to audit complaint-handling pro-NNP | interests first for too long. The cedures of individual water com-

CLASSIFIED

panies or to compel them to resolve consumer complaints. Jenny Kirkpatrick, chair-

woman of the Gas Consumers Council welcomed Mr Battle's announcement but cautioned: "What he bas not said ... is when the necessary legislation

will be put before Parliament." But Mr Battle defended the move, saying the councils would have statutory rights to information for the first time. He said be hoped to introduce legislation early in the next session of Parliament so that arrangements

could come into force next year. The legislation will also reform the system of trading in the electricity pool and allow a merger of the gas and electricity regulators. Ofgas and Offer. The Gas Consumers Council and the Electricity Consumers' Committees will also be merged. A new chairman is due to take over the single body in September.

Meanwhile, Mr Battle denied that the decision to grant approval for a £300m gas-fired power stabon in Baglan Bay near Swansea in the run-uo to elections for the Welsh assembly marked a U-turn in energy policy. The Government had imposed a de facto moratorium on new gas stations to protect the coal industry but cleared the Welsh project citing its impact on local employment and eco-

nomic regeneration.

Pubs for sale as Swallow rejects management offer

SWALLOW GROUP, the former BY NIGEL COPE Vaux pubs and hotels company, has put its entire estate of 664 tenanted pubs up for sale after rejecting a £125m management buy-out offer that could have saved the group's two brew-eries. The decision reflects Swallow's plan to concentrate solely on its hotel and managedpubs interests.

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The company said it would consider offers for all or part of the pub estate, with or without the breweries in Sunderland and Sheffield which will otherwise close on 2 July with the loss of 750 jobs. Redundancy notices were due to be issued to staff this week.

Swallow said the move was prompted by expressions of interest from potential buyers for the pubs. These are thought to is expected to use the proceeds

(CSG), the recruitment compa

ny at the centre of a £282m bid

from the Conservative Party

treasurer Michael Ashcroft, was

plunged into chaos yesterday as

its chairman bowed to share-

holder pressure and resigned.

group said Jeffrey Fowler was

stepping down as executive

chairman, to be replaced by

However the departure of

Mr Fowler who could receive a

payoff of more than £400,000, did

not placate CSG's three largest

investors, who have called for a

complete board shake-up. Mer-

cury Asset Management, M&G

and Schroders vowed to press

ahead with plans to call a share-

holders' meeting to must Mr

Hulbert, the commercial direc-

tor John Abrahamson and two

other non-executive directors.

rent board for CSG's poor per-

formance. The company issued

two profit warnings last month

and has seen its shares slide table a higher offer.

The investors blame the cur-

Ralph Hulbert, a non-executive

In a surprise statement, the

Investors force

CSG chairman

CORPORATE SERVICES Group BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

vesterday.

Fowler to quit as

Associate City Editor

include interest from Pubmaster, the privately owned Hartlepool based company, and Enterprise Inns, as well as financial buyers such as Nomura which has bought a string of pub chains in the past few years. Swallow's move could also rekindle the interest of Alchemy, the venture capital group that backed the failed management buy-out team for the breweries. It already owns the brewing company Ushers of Trowbridge.

The 664 pubs are a mix of 468 Vaux pubs, and 196 under the Ward's name. Their value is thought to be in excess of £100m: the pubs made operating profits of £11.7m last year. Swallow

from a year's high of 261p to 91p

The rebel shareholders yes-

terday said their proposal was

backed by investors controlling

over 50 per cent of CSG's shares Success by the three fund man-

agers would scupper the bid by

New Carlisle, a service group

The Tory fundraiser has the

right to withdraw the complex

cash-and-shares offer if the com-

position of the board changes.

Mr Ashcroft was consulted over

Mr Fowler's resignation and it

is understood that his bid will re-

main on the table despite the

board change. However, New

Carlisle is set to withdraw its

offer if the bulk of the board went.

Mr Ashcroft declined to com-

CSG yesterday told share-

holders to take no action on the

Ashcroft bid. Analysts believe

the company has not recom-

mended the bid because it be-

lieves that other predators could

owned by Mr Ashcroft.

and its managed-pubs business which includes the Bramwell and BarCentral brands.

The move to sell the estate comes after Swallow rejected two revised offers from the management of the two breweries. led by Frank Nicholson, the brother of the former chairman. The plans to sell the breweries had developed into a lengthy saga which saw three directors leave the board. These included the former chief executive, Martin Grant, who was ousted from the company after opposing the original buy-out plan. He said it undervalued the brewery assets.

The sale of the pubs and the closure of the breweries will leave Swallow exposed as a takeover target, analysts say.

Battle for

legal turn

THE TITANIC struggle for control of Gucci, the Italian fashion

house, last night appeared to be

heading back to the courtroom

after the board rejected a high-

er \$8.3bn bid from LVMH, the

Gucci's supervisory board

deemed "unacceptable" LVMH

chairman Bernard Arnault's in-

sistence that the \$85 a share offer

only be put to independent

shareholders and that if more

than 50 per cent accept, Gucci

should issue enough new shares

to give him control LVMH wants

the condition to get around the

42 per cent stake bought by rival

François Pinault last month.

French luxury goods group.

Gucci

takes a

Legal Notices



THE RAILWAYS ACT 1993 Licence Exemption Application by Birse Construction Limited

("the Applicant") Company Registration Number: 1981677 Principal address of the Applicant: Humber Road, Barton-on-Humber, South Lincolnshire DN18 58W Directors of the applicant:

Peter Birse David Goose Johnathan Wells Peter Hargreaves John Elders Louise Williamson Anthony Jackson

The Rail Regulator hereby gives notice in accordance with section 7 (4) of the Railways Act 1993 that he proposes to grant the Applicant an exemption from he requirement to hold a non-passenger licence. which would otherwise be required for the operation of trains in connection with certain maintenance activities, on the grounds that it is not appropriate for the full licensing provisions to be applied to such the full licensing provisions to the apparent to the operations. Any person who wishes to make any representation or objection with respect to the distance of the operation should send such representation. or objection to:

138-142 Holliem, London Ft 18 27Q ot later than 7 May 1999 Chris Bolt Dated 9 April 1999.

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Gucci insisted LVMH could win even with the Pinault holding and was effectively asking Gucci to hand Mr Arnault control of the company on a plate. material and appear of the against the rest of the against the rest of the analysis of the rest of the Analysts said it was unlike ly the battle would be resolved e land word action has been to pro-Angene company of the first of before a court hearing on 22 April at which an enterprise tribunal is expected to launch an क्षेत्र । त्रा श्री क्षेत्र क्ष विकास क्षेत्र investigation into the Pinault deal. "They just don't want to he seem to the mile owner destrict sell to LVMH." said one. Dated the 11 stated 1999 Michael John Walter (Aprella

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LID TRADING COMPANY NOTICE IS MEREN COVEN pursuant to Serion 98 of the Indiveny Act 1986 that a Meeting of Credition or the above named Companies will be held at Pre-resterbruseCoopers, Plummer Coun, Lundon ECAA AHT on 14 April 1999 at 11 Otam for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the said Act. A fist of the names and addresses of V Companies' Crediors may be inspected to at charge between 10,00cm and 5 00pm ProcessitethouseCooper. Plantiture Coal London EC44-HTI on the two business da preceding the date of the Meeting. Creditors wishing to sole at the meeting at unless they are individual creditor attending in person among their process as received of Pintewaterhouse Cooper Plummer Court, London (CAN 4411 no bit than motion on the business day precede the date of the meeting. 0839 203 001 💁 Dated April 6 1999 RONALD DAVID COODERHAM Secreta Charities

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NDEPENDENT.

News Analysis: To City relief, ONdigital is doing better than expected, and a flood of new sets is awaited

cleared the first - and probably

the most daunting - hurdle he

Battle is joined in digital television

SO PERHAPS ONdigital has a By Peter Thal Larsen future after all. Yesterday Stephen Grahiner, chief executive of the fledgling digital television joint venture, struck a confident tone when he faced launching the service in December.

In spite of persistent rumours about software problems and poor coverage, and in spite of going head-to-head with British Sky Broadcasting, the rival satellite broadcaster, which launched its own digital service last autumn, ONdigital still managed to sign up 110,000 subscribers in the first four months of its existence.

The figures were ahead of among investors was evident in the rising share prices of Granada and Cariton Communications, the ITV groups that each own 50 per cent of ONdig-

The subscriber figures narrow the odds that the venture will reach its target of signing up two million subscribers - the number it needs in order to break even - without having to ask its shareholders for more

Indeed, Mr Grabiner even claimed that ONdigital is outperforming BSkyB on a like-forlike basis. Although the satellite group signed up 350,000 subscribers in its first four months, all hut 120,000 of these were already watching Sky's ana-

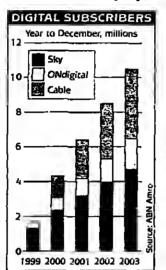
And as ONdigital can only currently be received by 70 per cent of the population, this implies that it is outselling Sky, which covers the entire country, in the areas where customers can choose between the two.

This is contrary to what analysts were predicting last year. At the time, it was widely expected that Sky's superior channel line-up - it boasts 140 channels compared to ONdigital's 30-channel offering would roar ahead. Indeed,

many observers think that it still will.

Nevertheless, it appears that ONdigital's attempts to appeal the City for the first time since to people who have so far resisted pay-television bave struck a chord. At the time of the launch, the venture made much of its "plug in and play" simplicity and the fact that, unlike Sky's service, it would not need a satellite dish

Research by CIA Medialab, the media planning group. shows that new subscribers have generally resigned themselves to the fact that there is no other way of watching Premier League football at home. City expectations, and the relief At the same time, the prospect



of dedicated cartoon and children's channels is also proving to be popular with children, who are pestering their parents to

Having cleared the initial hurdle, Mr Grabiner is now looking to make further inroads by offering different programming. Yesterday, he unveiled a line-up that includes exclusive feature-length editions of Coronation Street and Emmerdale, both of which will not be seen

Fans of Inspector Morse are

COMPANY RESULTS

also being lured with a final edition of the detective series, while music lovers will be able to see concerts by Luciano Pavarotti and the girl band, All

The approach sets ONdigital apart from Sky, which has traditionally relied on sport - particularly Premier League foolball - and blockbuster movies to sell its service, although it has recently realised the need to invest in original programming,

Another aspect of the battleground is set to be in integrated digital television sets. Alba, the British-owned manufacturer that makes Bush televisions, is supplying a range of digital sets with an ONdigital set-top box decoder built into the television (see accompanying story). Although the sets will sell for as little as £500, consumers will also have to sign up to ONdigital for 12 months in order to take advantage of the

This autumn, a bost of wellknown electronics names, including Philips, Panasonic and Sony, are set to launch their own digital television sets. Some will come with Sky or ONdigital decoders built in, while others will require the attachment of a module - and. in Sky's case, a satellite dish to receive either service.

Another key hattleground will be interactivity. Digital television will allow viewers to huy products, order pay-per-view movies, or conduct home banking from the comfort of their armchairs.

Earlier this year Sky launched Open, its interactive shopping and banking service. It is also offering subscribers an e-mail service.

Yesterday, ONdigital announced plans to offer its own e-mail service from September this year. Subscribers can already play games online through a dedicated games channel.

In theory cable television.

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which has the advantage of being piped through a fibre- optic cable rather than trans- mitted through the air, should he able to offer the most attractive interactive television services.	
But analysts now believe the cable companies are unlikely to be able to offer full interactive cable television before the first half of next year, giving both Sky and ONdigital the opportunity to sign up more subscribers.	
Yesterday's subscriber figures have also increased the chances that Carlton and Granada will seek to float a minority stake in ONdigital as early as next year. Charles Allan, Granada's	
chief executive, is thought to be keen to obtain a separate listing for ONdigital as soon as possible in order to give the stock market an opportunity to put a value on the venture, which he does not believe is properly reflected in either Granada's or	
Carlton's share price. ONdigital still faces a lengthy road ahead to achieve its target scale of subscriber hase and make a profit. But, in getting the venture up and running. Mr Grabiner has	
alanged the first and archable	

ONdigital chief Stephen Grahiner (left) and director of broadcasting Ashley Faull face the City yesterday for the first time after the service's launch Neville Elder Devil power tools.

Alba steals a march on rivals

A BRITISH-OWNED consumer electronics group appears to have stolen a march on its multinational rivals by being the first to launch an integrated digital televisioo with decoder technology embedded in the set, writes Peter Thal Larsen.

Shares in Alba, which makes televisions under the Bush brand, jumped 34p to 299p yesterday as the Essex-based group unveiled plans to sell a series of digital sets, starting at as little as £500 - although buyers will have to sign up to ONdigital for 12 months. The group plans to have 100,000 sets in the shops in

the oext year. The move is unusual for Alba, which has a reputation for massproducing popular consumer goods cheaper than established brands such as Philips and Sony but rarely leads in terms of innovation. Until now, Bush televisions were best known for their multi-coloured cabinets.

However, consumers who believe they are buying British by buying a Bush TV should be aware that the digital sets on offer will be made in Tarkey.

Indeed Alba, which was founded by chairman John Harris in the 1960s and is now managed hy his son Daniel. specialises in buying up low-cost consumer electronics goods. especially in the Far East, before selling them in the UK. Apart from Bush televisions, it also sells domestic appliances under

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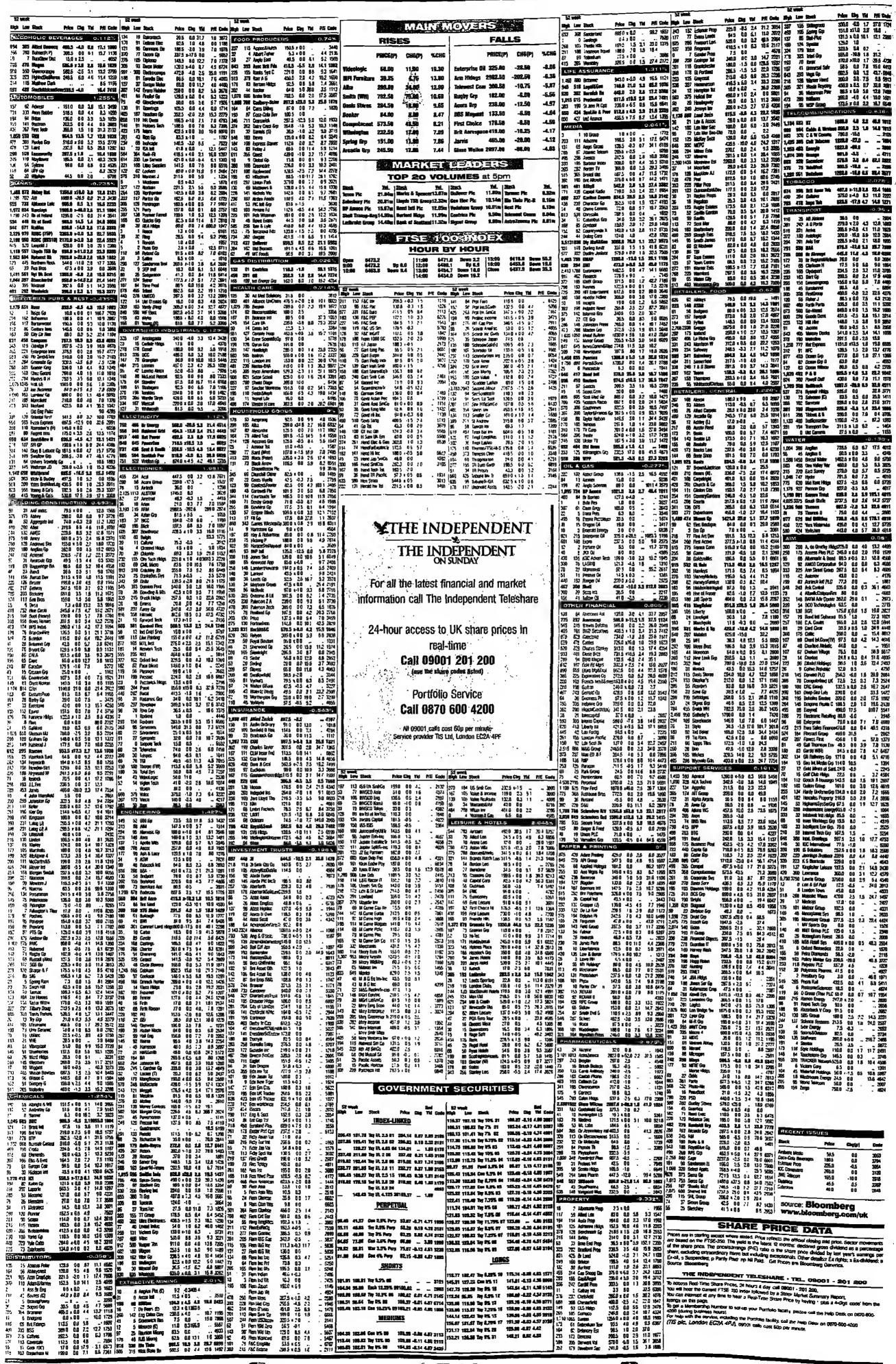
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ANNUAL	*GROS
RATE (%)	(SPA
2.524	2.500
2.396	1375
2.142	2.125
1.635	1.625
1.256	1.250
4.060	4.000
3.803	3.750
3.546	3.500
3.034	3.000
2.396	3.375
3.546	3.50
3.418	3.375
3.290	3.250
2.906	2.87
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Takeover talk spices up the story at Reed

HARD-PRESSED Reed Elsevier could soon be the subject

of corporate activity. The publisher, which this week lost two directors and shamefacedly admitted it had been unable to attract a new chief executive, is, according to seemingly authoritative reports from Holland, still in talks with Wolters Kluwer about a possible merger. To add spice to the story, United News & Media, the Express newspaper group firm at 595.5p, is said to have agreed to take part in any Wolters

Reed International, the British arm of the Anglo-Dutch publisher, responded with a 25p gain to 578p. The shares have been under pressure as Reed Elsevier's problems have mounted.

The Dutch stories apparently stemmed from a member of Wolters works council. It was claimed that despite an earlier rejection of a formal Wolters offer, merger talks

UNITED INDUSTRIES, the engineer, firmed 1p to 54p ahead of investment meetings.

The group took over the Neepsend steel group for £14.4m cash in January last year and the researcher Hardman & Co expects the benefits to flow through this year, when it sees profits reaching £7,4m.

However, last year profits fell to £1.2m from

The shares hit 75p last year; they were down to 41.5p in January.

were still being actively pursued. Reed Elsevier was said to have repulsed the hid because it feared a loss of identity. But if the latest talks should be successful it is almost certain that Reed International and Elsevier

But Wolters, with or without help from United, was not the only possible predator in the frame. Reuters, the information group, was also dragged into the speculation; the shares rose 10.5p to 974.5p.

Reed International's strength occurred as blue chins drifted from their peak, despite the widely predicted base rate cut. The half-a-point euro cut came too late to have any impact.

Footsie's eight day winning streak ended with a 35.3 points fall to 6,437.9; at one time it was off 68. The baserate reduction bad been discounted and with New York indecisive the modest Footsie setback caused little surprise.

Supporting shares, bowever, were in better shape. The mid cap index rose 15.5 to 5,514 and the small cap 9.6 to

A number of old takeover favourites were dusted down. Arjo Wiggins Appleton, the packaging and paper group, improved 8.5p to 145p in brisk trading on renewed suggestions the French group Saint Louis, was preparing to sell its 40 per cent interest to a predator. Last year shares of the recovering group were down to



DEREK PAIN

93.5p; they touched 315p five

Great Universal Stores rebounded 48p to 713p after a gaggle of analysts said the shares were oversold. The shares were around 850p at the start of March.

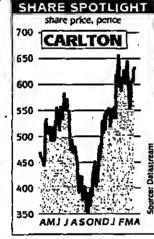
The base-rate cnt and the signs of a high-street spending revival also helped GUS. Kingfisher, 28.5p higher at 851.5p, and, belatedly, MIT Furniture 4.75p to 39.25p were others to benefit

Carlton Communications and Granada responded to the better than expected take up figures for Ondigital. Carlton rose 20.5p to 634.5p and Granada, seeing analysts and wining profit ungrades, 44p to 1,350p. CSFB lifted its target price by 65p to 1,415p.

Alba, the television and radio maker, clambered on the digital band, jumping 34p to 299p after Ondigital forecast sales of more than 100,000 Bush TVs incorporating terrestrial digital decoders.

Flextech, the broadcaster, improved 9p to 776.5p after Invester Henderson Crosthwaite signalled an 850p target but Next, the fashion chain, was lowered 18p to 789p as SG Securities switched from buy

P&O limped ahead 4p to 925.5p following a CSFB suggested price of 1,020p price



and Cadhnry Schweppes hardened 23p to 897.5p, encouraged by HSBC support. The investment house believes the shares could be worth 1050p.

The supermarkets took their referral to the Competition Commission in their stride. Asda, ahead of an investment meeting, firmed 1.75p to 149p; most others

gave up a few pence. BICC, predictably rejecting the Wassail "conditional" offer, eased 2p to 104p and European Leisure, turning down the Waterfall bid, gained 6p to 91p. Waterfall lost 1.5p to 55p. First Choice, the holidays

group, lost ground, off 8.5p to 176.5p, although stories of an Airtours strike resurfaced. Airtours climbed 30.5p to 492p. Amusement machine group Kunick added 2.25p to 17p on talk of a bid from Leisure Link, an unquoted group.

BWI, the engineer, gained 9.5p to 81p as the possibility of an offer increased; Servomex, the electrical group which is having bid talks, jumped 31.5p to 149p. WH Smith, on its Internet link, surfed 75p bigher to 782.5p and Dixons also scored from its web connection, gaining 25p to 1,421p. Geo Interactive Media was another on the web, up 18.5p to 114p.

SmithKline Beecham fell 21p to 890p following The Independent report of a revolt by major shareholders over the group's rich rewards to directors. And AstraZeneca marked its third day as a quoted drugs behemoth with its third fall, down 52p at 2,823p. The shares have lost more than 200p since the

DIRECTOR share buying produced a little cheer at Burn Stewart, the struggling Scotch whisky group. The price rose 2.5p to 15p after three

directors, including the chairman, William Thornton, picked up 60,000 shares at 12p and 12.5p. Mr Thornton is the higgest boardroom shareholder with 9.5 per

Burn, a large producer of whiskies for supermarkets, has been hit by tight margins; the shares once touched 144p.

merger became effective on

Imperial Chemical Industries gave up 17.5p to 559.5p. It sold Chance & Hunt, chemical business, to its management. But the market is awaiting a rather higger

Computacentre ended its decline since the arrival of rival Morse, recovering 43.5p to 573.5p and Eurotunnel improved 4p to 90.5p, reflecting buying in Paris.

Sherry FitzGerald, a Dublin-based estate agent, arrived on AIM and the junior Irish market, the Developing Companies Market, Placed at 157p the shares touched 180p before residing at 155p.

flion, involved in consultancy and training for the computer industry, slipped 1p to 83.5p. After the market closed it was revealed that Finance FT had picked up 6.6 per cent, lifting its stake to 11.8 per cent. Intriguingly, Finance IT represents Paul Kuiken, who is president and chief executive of Landis, one of Rion's rivals, and Wayne Channon who was Thores chairman and chief executive until December A bid is the obvious interpretation of their share-buying. In the past year Ilion's shares have come down from just over 200p; they were more than 400p in 1997.

SEAQ VOLUME: 931.6m SEAQ TRADES: 90,389

Laird mulls disposals to boost performance

LAIRD, the maker of parts for cars and computers, may sell some of its businesses over the next few years in a bid to hoost its performance and share

The chief executive, Ian Arnott, yesterday said that the group could divest some of its divisions, which range from rubber seals to insulate car bodies to computer casings, and focus its resources on the better parts of its husiness.

He said Laird had last year turned down several approaches over the sale of some of its subsidiaries. "We continue to review situation. In five years, Laird will probably be very different from now." However, Mr Arnott quashed

recent speculation of a bid for the whole group, saying that the company had received oo offers Some City analysts claim

that investors' disapproval of Laird's conglomerate-like structure has been a major drag on its share price, which last year underperformed the market by up to 70 per cent. Mr Arnott reiected this view, saying that Laird's wide spread of activities provided the group with muchneeded financial flexibility.

His comments came after Laird unveiled a 64 per cent plunge in 1998 pre-tax profits to £23.7m on sales up by 7 per cent to £1.1bn. The figures were £7m to £54m.

tain's biggest bed-maker, yes-

terday blamed poor demand for

cabinet furniture for a flat prof-

its performance and said the

closure of its Barnsley factory

Trading losses and £2,9m of

closure costs pushed Silent

night's full-year profits down

stightly to £16.3m against £16.5m

last year. Sales at Silentnight's

cabinet division fell by 16 per

cent as consumers cut back on

The main problem was at the

Meredew business, acquired

from Spring Ram two years

ago. ft specialises in pre-

assembled bedroom and dining-

room furniture with prices up

to £900 and consumers were re-

luctant to commit themselves

discretionary purchases.

had resulted in one-off costs.

SILENTNIGHT HOLDINGS, Bri- BY NIGEL COPE

By Francesco Guerrera

depressed by a £14.3m excentional charge caused by the restructuring of its German car seal operations, which led to 350 redundancies

The company was also hit by a £16m loss at its new car seal plant in North Carolina, built in 1997 to supply US-based manufacturers such as Ford, General Motors and Volkswagen. Mr Arnott hlamed the unexpectedly high loss on the low-quality rubber supplied by local manufacturers. He said that the material was so bad that Laird had to organise a costly airlift of rubber from Germany. However, the problems were now almost solved and the plant was set to move into profit at the end of the

The European operations of the rubber businesses were hit by several new model launches, including the new VW Golf and Renault Clio, which forced Laird to adapt its seals. A fire in a German factory added to the diffi-

The computer casings divi-sion slowed dramatically after a couple of years of explosive growth. The chief executive said that the business, whose main customer is IBM, was hit hard by an influx of cheap Asian imports and saw profits slide by

Associate City Editor

threat of recession loomed.

Meredew barely broke even in

the year and bas now been

merged with the group's other

cabinet brands where demand

The poor performance over-

shadowed solid growth in the bed division which includes top

hrands like Sealy and Layezee

where like-for-like sales grew by

4 per cent. Including the Rest As-

sured hrand acquired last year.

bed sales grew hy 10 per cent.

it already has 20 per cent of the

UK bed market with limited

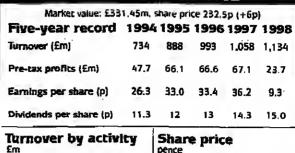
scope for expansion. To tap fur-

ther markets for growth, it is sell-

ing its bed division in the US

Silentnight's problem is that

has proved more stable.

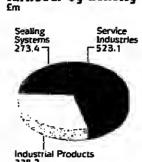


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Mr Arnott tried to reassure the market on the outlook. He said profits in the first quarter of 1999 were 20 per cent higher than in the same period last year thanks to a rebound in seals and strong growth in Laird's building products.

The comments lifted the shares 6p to 232.5p but left City analysts unconvinced. "They are accident-prone, they are a

need to get their acts together."

1994 95 96 97 98 1999

markets Laird faces. Margins in car seals are one-third their level of a few years ago, while computer casings still struggle against Asian imports. The shares, on nine times 1999 forecast earnings of £50m, are undoubtedly cheap. They are worth holding in the bope of a

said one. Others pointed to the difficult

No rest for Silentnight as profits dip

Bill Simpson, chief executive: Buyers are holding back

This presents a problem for

proceeds will be used to make good value. House broker BT furniture acquisitions in the UK. Alex Brown's current year profinvestors as the outlook for the shares up 3p to 206.5p, the sbares depends heavily on stock trades on a forward multhe end of last year as the acquisition opportunities. The buy, This aside the shares look Worth a look.

it forecast is £19.5m. With the

qualification now, I asked?

Tempus tunes in to £13m profits

By Andrew Verity

TEMPUS, THE independent buyer of television advertising time, yesterday posted a 40 per cent jump in profits to £13.2m and set itself the ambitious goal of expanding twice as fast as the rest of its sector.

Shares in the media buyer the third largest of its kind in Europe, edged up a penny to 257.5p in a falling market as results came in ahead of expectations, boosted by recent acquisitions in Europe.

Tempus has succeeded in huilding itself into a top-six player in all European markets, buying two rivals last year. Le Lab in France and MediaCentraleo in Denmark. In a market that expanded by 4 to 5 per cent, Tempus grew organically at 2.5 times that rate, placing \$4hn (£2.4bn) of advertisements. It also began an expansion into the US, buying VSM Media in New York

But as it expanded abroad, Chris Ingram, chairman and founder, faced a crisis at home. The UK arm of the group lost three crucial accounts in two years - BT, Lloyds TSB and Somerfield/Kwiksave

Mr Ingram, still a 20 per cent shareholder, pruned a tangled network of 12 companies down to 4, cutting 30 jobs from a UK staff of 200, "There was a danger that too many people were caught up in the management of the business rather than servicing client needs. We've very much streamlined it now."

Mr Ingram said the group would look for more acquisitioos in a rapidly consolidating market. But he rebuffed talk of a merger with WPP, which bolds 18 per cent of Tempus. "The costs of being in this market are accelerating all the time and clients are demanding global service. We have no problems with entering a strategic alliance but I have seen nothing to show what strategic benefits a merger with [WPP] would offer."

Simon Lapthorne, an analyst at Granville, the investment boutique, said the UK business seems to have turned the corner" and was well placed to expand in the US. But at yesterday's close of 257.5p, the shares are on a historical multiple of over 25 times, reflecting to huy, but keep existing shares.

A City full of Manducas

IT APPEARS the three Mandnca brothers are taking over fund management in the Square Mile.

I say this because Philip. 40. has just joined Tilney Investment Management to be head of European Investment. By coincidence his elder brother Paul, 47, is at Threadneedle Asset Management, while his younger brother Francis, 34, is in charge of the smaller companies desk at Gartmore.

Philip, who was eotertaining a group of clients at Aintree races yesterday, assured me that this was due to the healthy earnings to be made in fund management rather than any genetic disposition. "There's less volatility than in hroking or trading," be says. The middle brother has

a big expansion into Europe.

spent three years at Eldon Capital Management as chief investment officer for Emerg-GILTS INDEX: 114.15 -0.10 ing Europe. At Tilney he is set to announce more recruits for

3.25%

PEOPLE AND **BUSINESS**

By John WILLCOCK

So has he picked any winners at Aintree? "No, and I don't expect to," he says, "Generally I only bet on things where I have a good view of the facts unlike today."

Job swap

NYCOMED Amersham's chairman and deputy chairman have swapped places. It was all planned when IoD's charter

Nycomed of Norway merged with Amersbam International Richard Lapthorne, non-executive deputy chairman, will succeed Johan Fr Odfjell as non-executive chairman at the annual meeting on 6 May. Mr Odfjell will in turn succeed Mr Lapthorne as non-executive deputy chairman.

Mr Lapthorne, a Fran-

cophile who spends much of the year living in his house in France, has made a fortune from his sbare options in British Aerospace, where he is vice-chairman. He also finds time to be chairman of Morse, the recently floated computer services group, and a non-exec at Orange and Robert Fleming.

YOU'VE GOT chartered of the UK in October 1997. accountants, chartered surveyors, even chartered arbitrators. Now please welcome chartered directors.

Tim Melville-Ross, directorgeneral of the Institute of Directors (loD), yesterday launched the professional qual-

There are a great number of directors at the moment who are simply not up to scratch," thunders Mr Melville-Ross, himself a former chief executive of the Nationwide Building Society. "There is a buge problem in

British boardrooms of people who do not have the basic skills needed for management," he The IoD aims to combat this

hy taking managers with a track record in the boardroom and a degree or equivalent, and putting them through a series of exams and interviews. The director-general reckons

they will start with about 100 people a year, rising to 1,000 annually - "although that is still only scratching the surface. We're playing a long game," he admits. The IoD has 56,000 members worldwide.

'Quant jock'

GERSON RIDDY is leaving CIBC Financial Products to ification of Chartered Director, become managing director and

or "C.DIR". Why introduce the bead of Global Quantitative Analytics at Barclays Capital. Roughly translated, that means be will be pricing and trading "exotic" derivatives, making him what Americans call a "quant jock".

At Oxford, Mr Riddy won a "half blue" at cycling and took a first-class honours in Physics.

Director Young

SIR GEORGE YOUNG, MP for Hampshire North West, has been made a non-executive director of McCarthy & Stone, builders of private retirement homes. The sbadow leader of the Commons should be well suited to the job, having been minister for housing at the Department of the Environment from 1990 to 1994.

Sir George, a Queens Park Rangers fan who liets his recreations in Who's Who as "bicycling", will become a member of McCarthy & Stone's Audit and Remuneration Com-

E-mail: j.willcock@independent.co.14k

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Belgium	59.874	59.760		7 37.223	37.161	37.030	40.34
Canada	2.4109	2.4100	2,408	I 1.4988	1.4986	1.4979	1.623
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Finland	8,8249	8.8081	8.773	4 5.4863	5.4772	6.0212	6.559
France	9.736	9,718		9 6.0527	6.0427	1.7953	1.955
Germany	2.9029	2.8974	2.886	0 1,8047	1.8017	302.30	324.1
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italy	2873.9	193.56	191.9		120.36	11939	130.92
Japan	194.38	6.7444	8.446		3.8830	4.0100	4.117
Malaysia	6.1125	6.2444	0,440	9.4849	2.003V	4.0100	10.276
Mexico	15.257	2 7645	3.251		2.0300	2.0228	2.203
Netherlands	3.2708	3.2646	3.033		1.8868	1.8872	2.044
New Zealand	13.0347	3.0342	12.55	0 7.7775	7.7903	7.8070	8.426
Norway _	12.510	12.528	298.9	4 184.99	184.68	185.96	200.4
Portugal	297.56	297.00	5.043		7 7575	3.7593	4.053
Saudi Arabia	6.0329	6.0362 2.7720	2.756	9 1.7285	3.7535 1.7238	1,7150	1.872
Singapore	2.7804	10.0749	10.217		6.2649	6.3562	6.736
South Africa	10.0014	246.49	245.5	2 153.53	153,27	152.73	166.38
Spain	246,96	13.268	13.21	7 8.2640	8.2505	8.2221	8.95
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Brazil	2.770		8.2799	Philipines	61.97		38.536
Chine	13.31		35.149	Poland	6.377		3.965
Czech Rep	56.53		3.4145	Catar	5.854	13	3.639
Egypt	5.492		2417.9	Russia	41581		25850.0
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SPORT

Five Nations' Championship: Welsh prop who arrived late on scene is relishing battle with England at Wembley on Sunday

Rogers makes up for lost time



CHRIS HEWETT

JUST AS it all starts in the front row, it has all started for Peter Rogers. the Kent-born, Transvaal-trained, London Irish-contracted polyglot prop who may just be the best loose head to shore up the Welsh scrum since those rival Test Lions, Clive Williams and Ian Stephens, were playing tug-of-war with the Nn 1 shirt almost two decades ago. If a single Five Nations outing, albeit in Paris against a pug-ugly French threesome with fire in their bellies, does not add up to much in the experience department, it has not prevented animated talk of a "new cornerstone" on the far side of the

Legend has it that the Welsh selectors of old could whistle down the nearest mineshaft and rustle up any number of international-class tight forwards, but they would not have found this particular sharp-ender hacking away at the coalface with a pick in one hand and a Davy lamp on his forehead. Rogers was born 30 years agn in the garden of England - in Maidstone, to be precise - and despite his West Walian father and a significant amount of time spent studying in Llandovery and Pontypridd, the possibility of a sporting future amongst the Red Dragonhood did not occur to him until this time

He was living in Johannesburg at that point, having decided to continue his accountancy studies in the company of a few college friends who happened to be living on the high

"I badn't been a rugby-mad father may have been born just outside Llanelli, hut he was no fanatic although looking back, I suppose it was always the sport I took more seriously than any other," he recalled this week as the Welsh squad prepared for this Sunday's climactic meeting with England in the shadow of the Wembley towers. "But once I started turning out for Johannesburg Pirates, who were a very amhitious club, It began to take off for

Indeed, it took off with such velocity that Ray Mordt, one of the great Springbok wings of the postwar era and the scorer of a famous hat-trick of tries against the All Blacks in 1981, decided to fast-track this unknown Englishman - Welshness had not yet occurred to Rogers. nr anyone else for that matter - into the Transvaal provincial set-up. "It went better than I could have hoped; I played 10 or 11 consecutive games for the Golden Linns last year, enjoyed a few run-outs at Ellis Park and had just started negotiating a move to Gauteng Falcons when London Irish got in touch. I think Dick Best was looking to recruit South African players and mine was one of the names that cropped

Best was not alme in fastening on to Rogers' potential as a thoroughly modern, mobile, ball-handling scrummager, the Welsh national side were also in South



Africa at the time and while a 96point shafting in the Pretoria Test match left them contemplating a wasted journey, they at least managed to set some positive wheels in motion on the recruitment front. By last July Rogers had surfaced with the Irish at Sunbury-on-Thames. It would not be long before Graham Henry, newly appointed as Welsh coach, picked up the pbnne.

"Unfortunately, my knee ligaments went during an early-season Premiership game against Richmond," said Rogers. "Graham had just named me in his squad for the autumn internationals and was actually there at the ground to watch me play. It was not the best of days, that's for sure; the injury cost me four and a half months of rugby. which was pretty frustrating in the than Ellis Park - hut it was a fanbight of everything that was hap-

pening." Ironically enough, it was not until an over-motivated but under-baked Welsh front row found itself on the wrong end nf a hiding from their Irish opponents at Wembley in February that Rogers, not even a regular in the Lnndon Irisb side, received the call to arms.

"I can't bonestly say the summons took me by surprise because it was something I'd been working towards since arriving back in Britain. But I'd never played against a French side at any level of rugby, so the Paris experience was one that will always stay with me. I'd played in big stadia befnre - they dm't come much bigger self for some time to come. I'd say

tastic buzz to play a first international nn such an important Five Nations occasion and end up on the

winning side."

So bow did it go against those bulls of Toulnuse, Franck Tournaire and Christian Califano (Rogers was treated to 40 minutes of each as the French selectors tinkered around with their front-row configuration)? Well, they were physical, I'll admit that much." be said cagily, clearly intent on adhering to the age-old tenets of front-row omerta. "But I'm not sure they did anything unexpected or untoward. It was a fast game and a hard one, but hugely en-

"I hope to continue enjoying my-

SPORTS LETTERS

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I have three or four years left to me; I may be a late starter at 30, but I've played relatively little top-class rugby and I haven't taken as many bangs, or soaked up quite as much punishment, as most other players of my age." Shades of a Welsh Jeff Probyn, perhaps, nr even another Charlie Faulkner? Rogers is not the surt to gild bis own lily. "I

wouldn't know," be smiled. A little over a year ago, the Welsh pack slipped into reverse gear and then raised the white flag as the England posted their first ever 60-pointer on the scarlet bordes in a one-sided contest at Twickenham. If they suffer similar indignities on Sunday, neither Rogers nnr any other of his new countrymen will find the experience remotely enjoyable,

or even stomachable

The thought of it makes him clam up nnce more. "Tve never played against Darren Garforth or Richard Cockerill so I can't belp you on that score," he said. "All I know is that England are the strongest side in the tournament."

Cockerill being Cockerill, he will not besitate to introduce himself at the first available opportunity, probably via some jibe abnut Rogers' sudden outbreak of Welsh-

Still, the quiet man from everywhere will take it in his stride; when you spend your time being coached by Dick Best and Graham Henry, your eardrums should be perfectly equipped to handle a high decibel

Scotland selection surprises **Pountney**

BY CHRIS HEWETT

WHISPER IT quietly, but Jim Telfer is becoming dangerously radical in his dotage. Scotland's curmudgeonin-chief took the high-roller's approach to team selection yesterday by naming two open-side flankers, Martin Leslie and Budge Pountney, in his back row for tomorrow's game with France in Paris. If the gamble pays off-and Telfer is on a hot streak ust at the moment - it will send one of the world's finest coaches into Five Nations retirement with a smile spread across his hang'em and flog

em features. Scotland were always going to enter the Tricolores' lair with a revamped loose unit once the outstanding Eric Peters fractured a kneecap during last weekend's Pre-miership match between Bath and Leicester. As expected, Stuart Reid, the Leeds captain, will win his second cap at No 8, three and a half years after making his debut in an eminently forgettable 15-15 draw with Western Samoa at Murrayfield.

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However, the promotion of Pountney, the Northampton breakaway, over Peter Walton, the stronger but slower blind-side specialist from Newcastle, came as a complete surprise. "We think this is the most balanced back row for this game," explained Telfer. "The game is probably more open in France than in other Five Nations countries and when you also take the likely weather conditions into account - it could be as warm as 20 degrees Centigrade in Paris - it makes sense to use the substitution rules to their fullest extent. A fresh player might make a big impact in the last 10 or 15 minutes and someone like Peter, especially, could be quite devastating against opponents who are beginning to tire."

Telfer has long been a graduate of the "horses for courses" school of selection, as be proved with the Lions in South Africa in 1997. But Gregor Townsend, Scotland's outside-half tomorrow, believes the coach returned from that tour with a new fund of ideas and, more importantly, a new willingness to experiment. "He's very tuned in to the latest thinking," said Townsend this week. "I think the Lions experience had a big effect on him; he enjoyed working in a professional environment and encouraging players to make decisions for themselves. He has a fantastic tactical awareness and it's rubbing off on the side."

It will be fascinating to see whether the Pountney-Leslie combination can withstand the threat of a more physical French back row, which boasts one new cap in Christian Labit, the Toulouse flanker, and also sees Thomas Lievremont in his favoured No 8 position at the expense of Christophe Juillet

Scotland make a further enforced change to the side that recorded a decisive victory over Ireland in Edinburgh three weeks ago, Dave Hilton of Bath replacing the injured Tom Smith at loose-head prop.

SCOTLAND (v France, Paris, tomorrow): SCOTLAND (v France, Paris, tomorrow): 6
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Talt (both Edinburgh Reivers), J Leslie (Sanix,
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(Glasgow Caledonians). C Chainers, I Fairley
(both Edinburgh Reivers). P Walton (Newcastie), S
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Bags of fun

Sir: We already knew it, and Robbie Fowler confirmed it again. You are a nation of Pythons, and we love you because nf that.

Take good care of your sense of humour, where you still are the unrivalled world champions. The concern for the next three years is to find nut what it takes to make Giggs smile. And training on penalties. OJTILREM Втоппоузипа, Norman.

Rix silence

Sir: In the wake of the Graham Rix furore I notice, to use a cliché that the footballing fraternity so often speak in, a "deafening silence" from Chelsea's main sponsor, the drinks company

By their continued patronage of the organisation that is Chelsea FC, dn they condone child abuse, given that the football club bave maintained their stand on keeping Mr Rix's served his gaol term? CARL CROOK Preston. Lancashire

job open to him after he has

Empty gesture

Sir: If Chelsea were to bow to public pressure and backtrack on their proposed reinstatement of Graham Rix to his job (Sports Letters, 31 March) it would be a transparent and morally impractical gesture on their

Sacking him to "make an example of him" would neither aid his rehabilitation nor deter similar offences by others any more than his prison sentence will do.

In fact if be resumes his position, the sight of Graham Rix the final set of a tenaciously

 sex offender – being castigated in the media and villified by fans, will only serve as proof of football and society's contempt for what he did.

I believe Chelsea should not reappoint Rix because he will not be able to command the respect of players which is essential to his role as coach. Instead of seeing a veteran and leader, they would only see a pathetic example of a weak-willed middleaged man. ALAN GLYN

London **Truly British**

Sir. The magnificent Davis Cup tie that gripped the nation finally laid to rest a contentious point. Brave Greg Rusedski lost in

fought five-match series... which proves once and for all that he GERARD HUNT Hemel Hempstead,

Too risky

Sir: Why is Mike Atherton whingeing about his treatment at the hands of the England World Cup selectors?

He has endured worsening problems with his back since childhood and, although, his fortitude is to be admired, at his age they are likely to get worse rather than better. He was obviously too much of a risk.

If England are to have any chance of winning the World Cup, only the fittest should be considered and that includes

Graham Thorpe and his equally notorious back. Atherton should take a rest and concentrate on resurrecting his Test career. ARTHUR GOULD Wolverhampton

Over the line

Sir: Manchester United Plc 2 Manchester United supporters 0. The score-line following last week's announcement that Manchester United reported pretax profits of £11.1m in the six months prior to January 1999, compared to £15.4m for the same period last year.

United Pic's first goal came from an own goal. The chairman and chief executive of Manchester United, Martin Edwards, asked a question about the defensive ability of

the supporters. Their response was: "Sorry, you are only making a healthy profit of

United Pic doubled their lead. with a clever intricate move. The ball was transferred into their opponents' box, and there was Edwards to finisb clinically with a swift £2-a-match increase in

ticket prices. The game was dead and buried at this point, and supporters were left contemplating relegation.

It is strange to remember that on 25 February the joint manager of the pic and supporters teams, Alex Ferguson, went on the attack over player pay demands, warning that, "the very future of football is on the line unless we get back to wage negotiations"

A more relevant quote from Ferguson whuld have been, "the very future of football is on the line unless we stop chairmen, encouraged by their plc status, squeezing mnney from the supporters".

After all, nn 2 February this year, Manchester United were named the world's richest club in an unnfficial poll, with a turnover of £87,939m, some 50 per cent larger than Barcelona in second place at £58.862m. GARY JACOB St Catherine's College. Oxford

No Six appeal

Sir: Since news broke of David Mellor's removal from Radio Five Live's Six 0 Six to a latenight midweek slot, I have not seen or heard of any campaigns to keep him m place on a Saturday evening. Can anyone explain the reason for this silence? DES O'NEILL Coatbridge, Lanarkshire

مكذا من الاجل

THE INDEPENDENT

Stewart still searching for answers

on Sunday England's one-day team. With the World Cup just around the otland corner, and with little room for tactical manoestyre within a 15man squad, consolation can only realistically come with an upturn in results. At the moment, though, Alec Stewart's hopes of kick-starting a winning rprises streak that will carry his side through to the World Cup final untnev camel in the 2.15 at Sharjah race-track

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Stewart was typically tightlipped following England's 90run Coca-Cola Cup defeat at the hands of Pakistan on Wednesday, preferring, in his words, to England's one-day cricketers have much work to do before the World Cup. By Derek Pringle in Sharjah

than knock our guys."

Mind you, when you have just conceded the highest-ever one-day total in England's history instant gremlin-solving is an unreasonable expectation. Instead, he and his team spent appear about as likely as an a lengthy meeting last night outsider picking the winning searching for solutions to their searching for solutions to their current malaise.

The most glaring problem, and one that really became apparent when Pakistan set about defending their massive total, is in the bowling department, par-

pitches found out here. If the surfaces in England during the World Cup are unlikely to prove quite as unhelpful, there is no excuse for complacency. It will take a lot more than a grassy pitch to restore team confidence, should England contin-

day against Pakistan. Line and length rarely trouhle top batsmen on placid pitches and Stewart's dilemma over that England have little mystery the coming days is that there is

"praise the opposition rather bicularly on the bare bleached should England suddenly need a wicket, or a telling spell to restrain a spiralling run-rate.

Even Darren Gough, so often England's miracle worker in Test cricket, rarely produces the goods with the same frequency in one-dayers. In fact, striking when there are no ue to haemorrhage runs quite as badly as they did the other close fielders is an art few England bowlers of any era have mastered, mainly because they rarely encounter pitches as batsman-friendly as the ones

found here. Therein lies the problem

a specialist like Angus Fraser for today's match against India. the effect will be minimal. Indeed, that move, which would require one of the three allrounders to be dropped, could further undermine the role of the opening hatsmen, who seem unsure whether to try and make bay during the first 15 overs or bat cautiously to ensure

مكرا ما الاعل

For those who remember England's victories here 18 months ago - a week is a long time in one-day cricket so the memory may well have escaped all but the fanatical - and are puzzling over the current attack's vulnerability, the reason, apparently, lies with the balls.

Last time, the balls used were Kookaburras, which went soft almost as soon as the shine had been removed, around the 15-over mark. According to Adam Hollicake, who captained England to success then, boundaries were almost impossible to hit in the last 20 overs of the innings, the ball dying off both pitch and bat.

that early wickets are not lost. That has certainly not been the case this time, when Duke balls, the official hall of the World Cup, have regularly been dispatched beyond the ropes. Instead of getting soft - last summer Sri Lanka's batsmen dubbed the Dukes "bat breakers" - they retain their hard-

against England's mediumpacers in their current desert campaign - by providing regular bounce without any lateral chicanery - it should suit them in England, where the hardness ought to prolong any movement off the seam.

Other distractions, such as disputes over the terms of their World Cup contracts, have probably not helped to swell nglish morale or focus minds. The problem appears to

bave been in the structure of the contracts rather than the renumeration, "The fine detail has heen sorted out," said David Graveney, who, with Stewart, belped draft the

amendments. The chairman of selectors added: "There is now a flat signing-on fee as well as five tiers of bonuses to match progress from the first round to winning the final."

Providing the players sign them, the contracts come into effect on 18 April. Players have always bad grievances over their lot and this latest spat should be settled once the new contracts arrive here in the next few days. If it is not, the England and Wales Cricket Board faces the prospect of having to pick an entirely new squad of players. Should the current tosing trend not be bucked soon, that might not be

The day Light Blues turned pink

took the managers ap team selection veseria is two open-side flather estie and Budge Foundar to two open-side flather Sun shines on the start of the English cricket season to break with age-old tradition. By David Llewellyn

> IT JUST wasn't cricket. Or rather, it wasn't the traditional start to the first-class cricket season... April in Cambridge is no sunbed. Not as a rule. But yesterday, even with the

> earliest start to the season ever, the boundary was littered with lounging bodies and discarded sweaters.

> Instead of being blue with cold the Light Blues and their supporters were turning gently pink almost matching the cherry blossom behind the ultramodern pavilion. Outside Fenner's, bome of Cambridge University Cricket Club for more than 150 years and the scene of snow showers and icy sts of easterly winds, the drivers of snow ploughs stared glumly at the hlue skies and fleecy white clouds.

> Ordinarily the opening of the season sees rugs wrapped around a brave handful of spectators. This year rugs were spread on the ground, houndstooth jackets rolled into pillows and one of the largest first-day crowds seen for some time gathered under horse chestnuts, trees in a surprisingly advanced stage of affoli-

This trysting place on the first day of the season is a landmark for many, some of whom have been known to travel from South Wales. In fact these hardy annuals come from all parts just to be bere for these hardy annuals. Lancashire must have been bewildered.



The last time they were here, The last time Cambridge had four years ago, it was far cooler. This time, sleeveless sweaters instead of the traditional three woollies were suf-

If that was not confusing enough, when the students won

won the toss and batted first, opener JPR Mills was out first ball to J K Lever of Essex.

It grew worse. Instead of rolling over and reinforcing the argument that Oxford and Cambridge are not worthy of the toss they elected to bat. It first class status, the students had old sages and dusty dons huckled down and defied the shaking their heads in disbelief. county's attack.

Neil Fairbrother and Andy Flintoff are on England duty in Shariah, captain John Crawley. Warren Hegg and Peter Martin resting, and Michael Atherton missing with his back prob-

Normal service was finally

Admittedly Lancashire were Then, as the clouds began the earliest first-class century not at full strength. Ian Austin, rolling in, so the wickets began to fall. Ken Walker, who had ground out a half century, and James Pyemont were dismissed within half an hour of each other. Shortly after tea. with the temperature dropping and the crowd thinning, captain Quentin Hughes fell 16 runs short of what would have been

in the history of the modern game, caught and bowled by the promising leg spinner Chris Schofield Greg Loveridge, possessor of one New Zealand Test cap, and Richard Halsall soon followed. Suddenly order had been restored. Summer had arrived.

Scoreboard, page 29

Unflappable Inzamam too hot for India

FOR OVER 10 years Sharjah was the only place that India and Pakistan could play each other without setting off a chain reaction of civil disturbances. But times have changed and, if the supporters of both countries have become more even-tempered, the cricket has become more one-sided with Pakistan dominating recent encounters to the point where they now have

a virtual monopoly on victory. Yesterday's day-night match in Sharjah between the two did nothing to change that view. If anything, India were more embarrassingly outplayed than England were the previous evening, no mean feat considering England's performance was an all-time nadir.

The pattern of victory was not dissimilar either, with Pakistan hoisting another substantial total before intimidating their opponents with the pace of Shoaib Akhtar and Wasim

At the moment, Shoaib is the talk of the competition. Like his lengthy run-up, his pace is electric and those who have faced him so far have spent more time bopping than batting. This time, although his opening spell yielded just one wicket, India could not get him away. After 15 overs, they were 43 for 2, some 36 runs light of their opponents' score at the same stage.

With Pakistan making 279 for 8. it was not an ideal start. Once Mohammed Azharuddin and Ajay Jadeja fell to successive balls from Azhar Mahmood to leave them ailing on 47 for 4, India's race was run. The absence of Sachin Tendulkar, recovering from injury, has left them bereft of confidence. After winning the toss and BY DEREK PRINGLE in Sharjah

Pakistan 279-8 India 163-6

Pakistan win by 116 runs

batting for the second time in two days, Pakistan again played without inhibition. With IJaz Ahmed following his century against England with a brutally struck 38, the hulk of the scoring was left to Inzamam, who made a fine 107 from 115 balls.

The burly Inzamam rarely looked flustered. Mind you, inner calm has not always been Inzi's strongest feature and in a meeting between these two sides in Toronto be took his bat to a spectator who bad been calling him a "big potato" from the stands. However, judging from his innings yesterday new spud may just be the one we'll all come to like.

Pakistan wen toss PAKISTAN

| September | Sept

Page 1-27, 2-42, 3-47, 4-47, 3-55, 6-104.

Bowling: Washn Akana 6-0-24-0; Saqlan Mushtaq 10-1-37-1; Arshad Khan
10-0-31-0; Shahu Afrida 8-0-35-2.

Umprires: I Robinson (Zim) and D Hav [Aus).

Waugh's criticism for Lara

THE AUSTRALIAN captain, Steve Waugh, has criticised his West Indian counterpart, Brian Lara, over the Glenn McGrath spitting incident.

The match referee, Raman Subba Row, fined McGrath 30 per cent of his match fee and severely reprimanded him for bringing the game into disrepute for spitting on the pitch at the end of the fourth day's play of the final Test in

Australia squared the series 2-2 by bowling out the hosts for 211 for a 176-run victory on Wednesday despite a defiant stand by opener Adrian

Griffith, forced to retire for a time on Tuesday after being struck on the elbow by paceman McGrath, was the only batsman to show the necessary determination before he was ninth out, having scored

West Indies, facing a huge victory target of 388, never looked capable of withstanding the Australian attack and the visitors retained the Frank Worrell trophy they won by beating West Indies on their previous tour four years

But the outcome of a thrilling Test match was overshadowed by the McGrath row which Waugh believes the West Indies captain handled badly. He feels Lara should have vented his feelings to the West Indies manager, Clive Lloyd, instead of confronting the umpire David

"It was definitely handled the wrong way, there's no doubt about that," Waugh said. "It should have gone through BY CLIFFORD SMITH in St John's, Antigua

the right channels. If you've got a complaint you make it via your manager to the match referee."

McGrath was cleared of aiming it at Griffith, as had been alleged by the West Indian team. "I know Glenn and there's no way be would have spat at him," Waugh said. "He got charged with spitting in the vicinity of a batsman and on . charged with spitting at the

"It was unfortunate. It got replayed a few times from a few different angles and it's always England.

going to be a hig story." Asked about the spitting incident, Lara said: "There's no love lost. The match referee handled that and it's in the past now."

The last Australian to be accused of spitting at a batsman was Merv Hughes during a clash with Mark Greatbatch on Australia's 1993 tour of New Zealand. The match referee, Javed Burki, took no action then because the camera angles were inconclusive.

When Waugh lifted the the wicket He didn't get Frank Worrell Trophy be compared its significance supremacy over the West Indies - to that of the Ashes contests against old rival

West Indies players (from left) Corey Collymore, Jimmy Adams, Courtney Walsh.

Wavel Hinds and Curtly Ambrose deflated after the final Test against Australia

equal. The Ashes has got a tremendous tradition. So has the Frank Worrell Trophy now." Waugh said

"For us we were desperate to win this. It meant a lot to the players. The younger guys were pretty keen to retain the trophy and make sure it went hack with us on the plane. We're going to celebrate with it tonight. You know you have to pass that tradition on to the younger guys and tet them know it's a special thing to

The 33-year-old Waugh was winning his first Test series as captain, replacing Mark Taylor after the latter's 3-1 victory

"I think it's pretty much reclaimed the Ashes in January.

Waugh paid tribute to Me-Grath, who took a series-high 30 wickets in four tests. "He's been doing it for a couple of years now," Waugh said. "But he is getting better with every "He just doesn't bowl any

loose balls. He loves bowling

and you can't get the ball out of

his hand. Even if he's injured or tired, he won't say anything, he wants to keep bowling. He's great for a captain." Lara, who scored 213 and an unbeaten 153 in his team's two

victories at Jamaica and Barhados, also lauded the fast "McGrath's performance throughout the series was something to bebold," Lara ssid. "I thought it was a

tremendous effort. He's a great

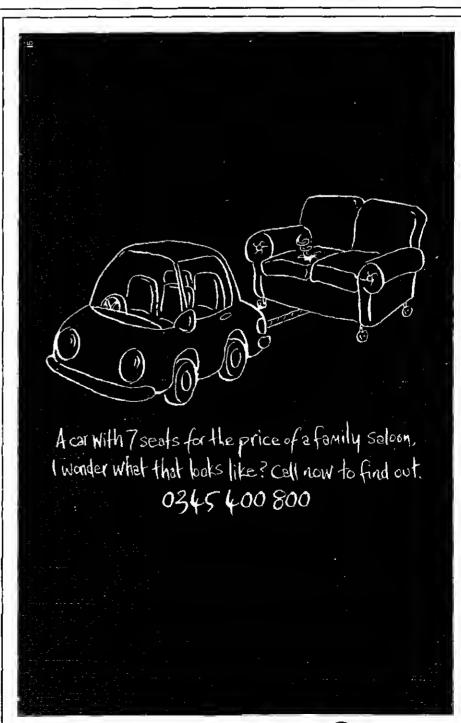
competitor and someone who

all young bowlers should try to follow." Lara earned the Man of the Series award just ahead of McGrath. The 29-year-old lefthander added his third century in successive Tests at Antigua off just 82 halls and ended with 546 runs at an av-

erage of 91.

"It was a tremendous series and deserved to be drawn 2-2,7 Lara said. "After what happened in South Africa (the West Indies lost 5-0] and coming after that and bouncing back to draw this series is a tremendous team effort "

"I'd have loved to have the Frank Worrell Trophy this aftermoon, but Steve has it for another two years. Hopefully when we get to Australia lin 2000-2001] the series will be as competitive as this one."



ZAFIRA. A work of genius.



Grand National Meeting: Big-race field dwindles to 32 but the course claims only two fallers in Fox Hunters' Chase

National runners shrink in rain

THEY WILL count out one of the smallest fields of the modern era for the Grand National tomorrow and the evidence from Liverpool yesterday is that a great many of them will be counted back in again.

For those who have drawn Belmont King, Linden's Lotto, Betty's Boy or Another Excuse in early office sweeps, a wager will now have to be struck to maintain interest in the race.

Their removal yesterday means that just 32 are left for the hig one and Avro Anson remains a doubt with the ground riding on the pliable side. The going is still officially good to soft (soft in places) following yesterday's morning of drizzle on Merseyside which deposited two millimetres of rain.

The field is still almost certain to be larger than three years ago, when Rough Quest beat 26 rivals, the least populated contest since Merryman II led home 25 opponents in 1960. Rough Quest himself was an unexpected casualty yesterday

BY RICHARD EDMONDSON at Aintree

in the Fox Hunters' Chase, the opening saivo over the frightening fences. His rider, Mark Bradburne, broke a collar-bone and thus misses his National debut on the 50-1 Blue Charm.

Rough Quest was one of only two horses to fall in a race which usually represents the Balaclava of the meeting. Neither be nor Pontoon Bridge was hurt. The notable complaints are confined to jockeys.

Graham Bradley, who sprang a joint between his collar-bone and shoulder when falling in the Irish National on Monday, is receiving regular treatment in an effort to make his appointment with Suny Bay, on whom he was runner-up last year. "I am having physio twice a day and have been doing some press-ups and lifting exercises," he said. "The shoulder is a lot better and getting stronger by the hour."

Richard Dunwoody, who has

the seat on second favourite Call It A Day, missed his last two rides yesterday with dehydration. That is a sensation be would rather feel on Sunday as a result of celebration.

Dunwoody will have been made even more deeply ill by his defection from Papo Kharisma, who won the closing contest for Adrian Maguire. There was something unusually extravagant about the way Maguire celebrated Macgeorge's victory earlier in the day and it

Maguire used to be stable jockey. Maguire's key to Jackdaw's Castle was taken from him at

as they are housed at the David Nicholson premises where the beginning of the year in an unsavoury demotion and he rather enjoys restating that his talent is not quite as diluted as some seem to believe. "This is a good result for me

trainer]," he said, leaving others to fill in for whom it was bad. cartefigue and Go Ballistic well "I recognised the horse and the colours when Escartefigue came at me, so I had to keep

Macgeorge up to his work." Lee added: "Adrian rides the borse quite heautifully. I have always thought be is a brilliant horseman and excellent

JP McManus's strategy at the racecourse is usually con-

some satchels were filling with tears after he landed a double with Joe Mac and Elegant Lord. If Joe Mac had not run at

Cheltenham he would now be heralded as the best young burdler in training following his contemptuous victory in the opener. Christy Roche's gelding, who had been well beaten by Hors La Loi III (another winner yesterday and now an 8-1 chance for next year's Champion Hurdle with William Hill fined to the betting ring, and at the Festival, won by four

lengths, but could have won by a similar number of minutes. "The ground was perfect for him and he was always going very well," Conor O'Dwyer, the winning jockey, reported. "He has a lot of speed and once we came there at the last it was all

over in three or four strides." O'Dwyer added that Joe Mac enjoyed the flatter configuration of this course. Mc-Manus enjoyed his observation. they have won that the track brewery.

suits the horse well," be said, but he did seem happier here than at Cheltenham.

David Ashdown

"I have got to admit I got my fingers hurnt when he was heaten at Cheltenham, but at least I got a little back today." McManus's little is everyone

The owner-gambler also had a minor flutter on Elegant Lord - "a little to cover the beer money". That means he prob-Jockeys always say that when ably bought out the local Cains



was all to do with the animals and Richard Lee [the winning that followed in his slipstream. The Irishman knows Es-

Walls Court (left) and Kibreet jump The Chair with eventual winner Elegant Lord (right) in yesterday's Fox Hunters' Chase at Aintree

AINTREE

4.20 King's Road 4.50 Dana Point 5.20 ISLAND CHIEF (nap) 2.00 Barton 2.35 Call Equiname (nb) 3.10 Ever Blessed

GOIHO: Grand National course - Good to Soft (Soft in places); Mildray Course & Hurdle track - Good to Soft (Good in places).

If two left-hand courses, Grand National circuit is 2 miles and triungular with a run-in of almost 500yds. Massive spruce and fir tences, several with a steep drop on the banding kids, Mildrings crould is 11/r miles round with conventional park fences.

If Course is NE of city, fin from the M57 on the A59, Station (served by Liverpool, Lime St) adjoins course. ADMISSION: Totots for all stands \$35; Tetternalis £19 (accompanied children free). COURSE CAR PARKS; Sold out (Free park & ride service).

III. LEADING TRAINERS: D Nicholson 15-64 (23.4%), M Pipe 14-91 (E4.4%), N Twiston-Davies 9-61 (M8%), J H Johnson 6-27 (22.2%).

III. LEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy 18-49 (32.7%). A Dobbin 9-28 (32.1%), N Williamson

G JOCKEYS: A P MG 8-56 (M3%), P Corberry 6-27 (22.2%).

E FAVOURITES: 74 wms from 199 races success rate (39.2%),
TONGUE STRAP: Linden's Lotto (345); Carley Led (345),
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Caritale Bendito's (310).

10 00	MARTELL MERSE	Y NOVICE HURDL	E (CLASS A) £30	000
2.00	MARTELL MERSE added 2m 4f		_ (000 . y	
	BARTON (23) (D) (5 W Ow		L	West

titti	BARTON (23) (0) (5 W Clarke) T Easterby 6 ft 9
-41118	TONOCO (27) (T Herenoos) Mrs S Smeti 6 11 9
	AUETALER (GER) (24) (Antield Hornbres) M Pipe 5 11 1
052	EASTON GALE (48) (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 5 11 1
2-1217	POLAR FLIGHT (20) (D) (B M Coline) Mass V Williams 5 Tl 1
101130	PROMINENT PROFILE (24) (D) (Son Purtnership) N Twiston-Device 6 TI 1_C Liewelly
	- 5 declared -

BETTING: 2-5 Barton, 9-2 Tonoco, 12-1 Prominent Profile, 16-1 Austains, Polar Päght, Easton Gale 1996 Promoke 6 ff 5 C F Swan 9-4 lav (A P C'Erian (M) 12 ren

FORM GUIDE

Barton: Continues to look top class and never more impressive than at Cheltenham (zmSi) with a 9-length win from Artadoin Lad. Powerful stayer with a turn of foot Tonococ Haydood, Huntingdon and Wetherby (beat Crazy Horse nerrowly) witner and saddled with 12st in Sandown handcap when 6th to Londberniebouffent. Auetatian: Five-times winner on the Flat in Germany, 20-length winner on hundles debut at Taunton and prominent for long way at Cheltenham when 10th to Hors La Loi B. Easton Galle: Kept on well when 2nd to Count Camploni over this trip at Fakenham other 5th All Coppe of Congressive. Hard to increase.

Eastion Gales Repril of their when and or count campion over the stip at Parential after 9th to All Going at Doncaster. Hard to fancy.

Polar Flight: Stays well but has won only at Plumpton in testing ground. Easily brushed abode by Jungt at Untoester last time so can have little chance against the favoritie Prominent Prototie: Who very competitive bumper at Chepstow and duly scored on hundles debut at Weitherby (2m4f). Found wanting over 2m since with stoppy (umping. Warns this return to a trip after his 12th to Hors La Loi R at Cheltenham (2m)

VERDICT: BARTON continues on the memy way and content test per opposed after the demolition job at Cheltenham. Promisent Profile has found two miles at Kempton and Cheltenham too sharp and can only be better served by this trip, though his jumping hasn't been that bright. Tonoco suffered an injury at Sandown but atill looks up against it. Australer, who was a useful sort on the Flat in Germany, has every hope of acting well on this course after helping fonce the pace at Cheltenham in the race won by his talented stablamate Hors La Lot III.

2.35 MUMM MELLING CHASE (Grade 1) (CLASS A) £85,000 added 2m 4f (Mildmay course) 1/1-11 CALL EQUINANCE (23) (D) (M Coburn/P Berber) P Alcholis 8 11 10 M A Pitzgerak

2	043D00	CHALLENGER DU LUC (FR) (23) (O) (D A Johnson) M Pipe 9 11 10 A P McCory B
3		DIFFECT ROUTE (23) (C) (C Heron) J H Johnson 8 11 10
4		MULLIGAN (23) (Lady Harrs) D Nicholson 9 11 10
5	3-1013	SUPER COIN (48) (0) (G Brookes) R Lee 11 11 10
6	5322	OPERA HAT (41) (CD) (Mrs T K Cooper) J Fowler (in) 11 11 5
		- 6 declared -

BETTING: evens Call Equiname, S-2 Direct Roule, 13-2 Opera Het, 8-1 Super Coin, 12-1 Multigan, 1998 Opera Hat 10 ft 5 C O'Dwyer 10-1 (J Fowfer (ini)) 5 ran FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Call Equiname: Goes well tresh and had two-month break between Victor Chandler win at Ascot and Queen Mother success at Chellenham (Direct Route and Muligun behind). Has won over this longer trip and the one to beat Challenger Du Luc: Thromognity moody nowadays and least spin over hundles at Chellenham (19th behind Khayrawani) unlikely to have relonded the interest Direct Route: Obvious chance if proving effective at this longer trip. Top performer at 2m and just under 5 lengths behind Call Equiname at Chellenham artip. Top performer at 2m and just under 5 lengths behind Call Equiname at Chellenham artip. The province at the facture last year Multigam: Prustaging and but capable on his day. Pousted for handcap win at Don-caster but sloppy run again at Chellenham when 18 lengths behind Call Equiname. Winner at this trip over hundles so could well buste up the principals Super Colon: Winner of the 1998 Mildmay Of Fete and firm win at the weights from Nearly An Eye at Haydock before stiff task and 3rd to Teston Mil at Ascot. Will like the ground and statlemate Macagange scored here yesterday
Operar Hatt Beat Or Royal and Strong Promise in this 12 months ago. Gradually returning to form (2nd to Papillon over 2m at Neas last time) and holds every chance with her confirmed stamina.

VERDICT: CALL EQUINAME could be called the winner of the Queen Mother at

VERDICT: CALL EQUINAME could be called the winner of the Queen Mother at Cheltenham some way out and looks capable of confirming the form with the third. Direct Route. He had winning form over this longer trip back in 1996 whereas Direct Route may just lack the dash over the extra distance, though his long for the strarp course must be respected eiter last years win from Ashwell Boy. Opera Hut stays well and will not be easily beaten after the win 12 months ago from Or Royal.

3.10 MUMM MILDMAY NOVICE CHASE (Grade 2) BBC2 (CLASS A) £45,000 3m 1f (Mildmay course) 1 1215 HS SONG (24) (BF) (D Lloyd) M Morts (t) 8 II 11. JR Barry 2 PRINCIP (23) (D) (Mrs S Catherwood) D Notrotson 7 II 9 JR Date 1 JR Barry 2 PRINCIP (23) (D) (Mrs S Catherwood) D Notrotson 7 II 9 JR JAMES 1 JR JAMES 1

Speria, 33-1 Carliala Bandito's. 1998: Boss Doyle 6 11 7 A P McCoy 5-4 lav (M Morris(RE)) 8 ran FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

His Song: Top class at 2m and 2nd to French Ballenha over hundles at Cheftenham
last year. Four-times winner over fances but made mistakes in the Aribe last time when
a 21-length 5th to Rapiship Uberalles. Hard to assess at this first attempt at longer trip
Spendid: 2nd to The Proms over hundles here last term. Tough chaser who wants a
stamma test. Below form in Sun Atlance at Cheftenham. Tight course not ideal
King Of Spenter. Patients his form and least on when 2nd to Majadou in Mildmay Of
Patie (2m4f) lest time. Held by Maldounij on form at Kempton but may take to this course
Cartisde Banditio's: Duly took advantage or big weight concession from the stow Court
Melody in amateurs' race at Sandown last time. Major surprise if he collects in this grade
Ever Bleased: Easy winner of soft races at Towcester and Bangor since Leicester win
from useful Kings Banker. Was regarded and sare to figure in his improved form
Village King: Latest two wins gared in handicaps, at Cheftenham and Exeter (best
subsequent winner Gratomi). Attempts an extra five furlongs today, likely to struggle
Majoungt: Impressive winner at Newbury and Kempton but pulled up in the Aribe (found
to be in season). Has won over 2m4f so fine chance of getting this trip on sharp course

VERDICT: This could turn out to be an ideal trip for MAKOUNUI, who was in see-son when pulled up in the Aride at Chebenhairt, Impressive on earlier stairs, especially at Kempton from King Of Sparts over two and a tail, the mare will be hard to best. His Song is a lottinguess whether or not he will stay, and the sharp course is not ide-if the Spendid, who ran too bedly to be true at his favourits Chebenhair last time. Ever Bleased cannot be ruled out in his present good heart but the task looks be-yond Village King.

3	.45	JOHN HUGHES TROPHY HANDICAP CHASE (B) £35,000 added 2m & (National course)
1	2000	WAYWARD KING (23) (Feldspring Record) A Hodges, 7 th 10
2	32-133	EVEN FLOW (41) (AT A Whites) T Casey to 11 9
3	P37510	LISTEN TIMMY (NZ) (23) (Sentral Recorg S Brookshaw 10 1) 8
4	SMESO	SANTA CONCERTO (24) (D) (J Corr) L Lungo 10 11 6
5		MAHLER (76) (D) (English Badminton Pertnership) N Twiston-Davies 9 tt 7.C Llewellyn
6	201H	THE OUTBACK WAY (23) (D) (Winning Line) Miss V Williams 8 tl 7
7	36TTQ	LINDER'S LOTTO (24) (C) (BF) (M Baley) A J Martin (M) 10 ti 5
8	212531	LINTON ROCKS (10) (Hon Mrs Townshend) P Nicticle 10 11 3 Gezi
9	MSIII.	GRUS D'ESTHUNAL (FR) (24) (D.A. Johnson) M. Pipe 5 11 2 A.P. Naccoy
10	50tt K3	HYHANE (71) (BF) (Mrs B M McGray) A L Moore (M) 10 10 9
11	23-561	MONTHAN (20) (T Herrangs) M Harmond 9 105 B Harding
12	321221	RIVER UNSHION (29) (R.J. Oraka) J.H. Johnson 9 104
13	1/5065	NOTON (DO) ICH McGhel K Ryan 8 104
14	-5ZP2	MAITRE DE MUSIQUE (FFI) (39) (SF) (R Coder) M Toutrumer 8 TO 2 II Dusmoody
Ti	314005	NATIVE STATUS (47) (D) (Mrs T Carberry) T Carberry (rt) 9 110 P Carberry
16)	(I25P33	BALLYLINE (20) (D) (46 Partnership) W Kemp 6 10 0
17	F40511	CAPILEY LAD (6) (0) (N B Meson) N Meson 11 TO 0 (3ex)
25	F43-8	RED BEAN (20) (BF) (B Thirty S Early 11 10 0 H Johnson
19	13(23)	THE BERG (17) (Straw Hill God Outs) D McCam 7 100
20	122445	SMEPER (18) (26) (Clayton Bigley Partnership) F Murtagh 7 10 0
	20 10 10	and the state of t

— 20 destared —
Miramum weight: 10st, True handicap weights: Native Status 9st 13tb, Behydne 8st 9tb, Carley Lad 8st 9tb, Red Bean Sat 4tb, The Earn 9st 3tb, Super 6st 5tb.
BETTING: 9-2 Gris D'Estruved, 7-1 The Cuttack Wey, 8-1 Ryhana, 16-1 Linkon Rocks, 12-1 Event Flow, Linden's Lotto, Mahler, 14-1 Noyan, Sariat Concusto, Waymard King, 16-1 Carley Lad, Maltre De Musique, Linden's Lotto, Mahler, 14-1 Noyan, Sariat Concusto, Waymard, King, 16-1 Carley Lad, Maltre De Musique, Linden Tiomre, 20-1 Nother Satists, 22-1 Monyman, 25-1 others

1996: Cyfor Matta 5 ti 1 A P McCoy 7-2 tay (M Pipe) 22 ran FORM GUIDE

Wayward King: Ex-pointer with decent form at this trip, latest 3rd to Majadou in the Mildring Of Rete giving him a chance Interesting lockey booking but has enough weight Even Flow: Smart handcapper at 2r44 and just outstayed over 3m by Tu burnt and The Land Agent at Kempton last time. Acts on last ground but streams weight to defy

The Land Agent at Kerretion leat time. Acts on less ground but streable weight to defy Listen Timery: httpressed with his jumping when an 11-length where from Ellymur-ry totil at Newcaste (2m4t) and found ground too story at Cheffenham when 10th in Midmay Of Flote Listely to make a bold bid with forcing tactics. Santa Concerto: Easy winner from River Unation at Ayr and jumped well in Eder. Fadde from 15th in Cheftenham new won by Bethy's Boy last lime. Needs testing ground Mahler: Won Grade I event in testing ground at Punchestown a year ago. Little promise this term but trip will suit and has been backed at big odds. The Outback Wary Improved to win at Donussier and Warrinck and their joined present trainer. Faded quickly on run-in when 4th to Majadou in Midmay Of Fleta (2m4th Linden's Lotte: Free-running sort who tanded gaintale over cross-country course at Chetterham Has since won easily at Navan and strit task at weights when 17th to Cettor Glant at Chetherham last time. Sure to do better after being pulled up in this tast year Linton Rocket. Loves top of the ground and always going well at Sandown (offirm) tast time (beat Sharp Command in langton, Relatively tresh and a leading contrader Gris D'Estruvelt: Useful ex-French performer who jumped well to win small race at Newbury (2m4). Not fuert when a 20-length 4th to Flagstap Uberalies in Arkle at Cheferhaman Looks on a tenent mark and stable won the race last year with a 5-y-o. Obvious chance against handcappers

Newbury (2m4), Not fluent when a 20-length 4th to Flagstap Uberailes in Arkie at Chelizintam. Lordis on a lement mark and slable won the race last year with a 5-y-o. Obvious chance against handicappers. Rytiane: Has won over further out todays top looks ideal judged on his 4th to Holybark Buck at Leopardstown (going well three out). 3rd in Gowran Park hurde last time Monyman: Still to win beyond extended 2m out defled big weight in soft ground at stable in form Monyman: Still to win beyond extended 2m out defled big weight in soft ground at River Unathorit; Goss perbodainty well at Sedgefield and bear Nosam there last time. Much stiffer task today but was in touch when he felt at 9th in this race last year. Noyan: Tough gelding who has changed stables. Pain creditably when 6th in Great Yurksheire and when 5th to Celtic Gaint in Kim Muc. Will like the ground and stable in form Mattre De Musique: Generally disappointing but likely to be up with the pace early. May have found ground too testing of late and was conceding 7to when beaten by Weaver George at Newcastle (2m4), but then Chances off a low weight. Native Status: Has done most of his winning over short of 3m. Failed to stay when 8th to Holybank Buck at Leopardstown and amatur ridden last time (5th to Lindens Lotto) Belliytine: Lad for much of way when a 13-length 2nd in the race last year. Sult task last arre when beaten a distance by lobe at Urboniste. Cround to sur. Carley Lad? Sang in form with wirs at Newcastle (soft) and Towcaster (good, beat Liver Bird). Sto but of francise and may lack necessary pace in this claus.

The Earlie: Only paced gelding who has won in testing ground at Haydoch and Urbones. Cround to the better report.

The Eenst One-paced gelding who has won in testing ground at Haydock and Un-tower. Lifely to find plenty of these too pacey for him on the better ground shipper; but induce whomen at Kelson in soft ground early in the season. Board as language by Carley Lad at Newcastle last time. Massive task from 23th out of handicap

VERDICT: Martin Pipe pulled off a wonder touch in this test year when his Carhoart winner Cyfor Maita ran away with the prize to the tune of 13 lengths. Pipe goes again with another five-year-old, ORIS D'ESTRILYAL, who elso comes here from the Chelianham Festival, where he finished fourth behind Flagship Uberales in the Arkis. He has won over this type of trip in France and at Newbury so. like Cytor Maithu could prove a sinp at the weights. The artic-post interest over Maither is interesting considering his poor recent form and the bold-jumping Listen Timmy is arother with sectionary claims. Monymain has a low weight and will like the ground, as will Lordan Wyer's mount. Novan.

4.20 BELLE EPOQUE SEFTON NOVICE HURDLE (Grade 1) (A) £40,000 added 3m 110yds Grade 1) (A) £40,000 added 3m 110yds 0-521 BERUM BLUE (14) (D) (F J Douglas Engineering R Strongs 6 m 4 Mr S Strongs 325 DOOR 170 DOOR (14) (D) (The Delomate) W Komp 8 m 4 G Bradley 20054 DYSART O'DEA (14) (D) (The Delomate) W Komp 8 m 4 G Bradley W IN THE ROUGH (777) (Mr) L R Lovel) J Old 8 m 4 T J Murphy 2024 TORG'S ROAD (25) (Mr) L R Lovel) J Old 8 m 4 T J Murphy 20254 TORG'S ROAD (25) (Mr) L R Lovel) J Old 8 m 4 G L Unrelly 20254 TORG'S ROAD (25) (Mr) L R Lovel) J Old 8 m 4 G L Unrelly 20252 MCHATTE (NZ) (17) (SF) (S W Clarte) S Brothsize 6 m 4 A Doubbin 30252 MCHATTE (NZ) (17) (SF) (S W Clarte) S Brothsize 6 m 4 A Maguine 30132 PICKET PECC (16) (RS) (D) (SF) (T Warrar) P Hobbs 8 m 4 A Maguine 30132 PICKET PECC (16) (RS) (Mr) Mr) J Plann 5 m 4 N Wilsenson 30142 PICKET PECC (16) (RS) (Mr) J Mr) J Plann 5 m 4 N Wilsenson 30142 SAMTABLESS (Z7) (Southen Broth & Teo Co List) Mr Parrar 6 m 4 N Wilsenson 30142 SAMTABLESS (Z7) (Southen Broth & Teo Co List) Mr Parrar 6 m 4 N Wilsenson 30142 SAMTABLESS (Z7) (Southen Broth & Teo Co List) Mr Parrar 6 m 4 N Wilsenson 30142 SAMTABLESS (Z7) (Southen Broth & Teo Co List) Mr Parrar 6 m 4 N Wilsenson 30142 SAMTABLESS (Z7) (Southen Broth & Teo Co List) Mr Parrar 6 m 4 N Wilsenson 30142 SAMTABLESS (Z7) (Southen Broth & Teo Co List) Mr Parrar 6 m 4 N Wilsenson 30142 SAMTABLESS (Z7) (Southen Broth & Teo Co List) Mr Parrar 5 m 4 N Wilsenson 30152 STORM OF GOLD (Z7) (S W Clarie) C Marrie 6 m 4 N Y Parrar 5 m 4 N WILSenson 30152 STORM OF GOLD (Z7) (S W Clarie) C Marrie 6 m 7 m 4 N A Fitzgradd 30153 SAMTABLESS (Z7) (Southen Broth & Teo Co List) Mr 3 Primar 5 m 4 N A Fitzgradd 30153 SAMTABLESS (Z7) (Southen Broth & Teo Co List) Mr 3 Primar 5 m 4 N A Fitzgradd 30153 SAMTABLESS (Z7) (Southen Broth & Teo Co List) Mr 3 Primar 5 m 4 N A Fitzgradd 30153 SAMTABLESS (Z7) (Southen Broth & Teo Co List) Mr 3 Primar 5 m 4 N A Fitzgradd 30153 SAMTABLESS (Z7) (Southen Broth & Teo Co List) Mr 3 Primar 5 m 4 N A Fitzgradd 30153 SAMTABLESS (Z7) (Southen Broth & Teo Co List) Mr 3 Primar 5 m 4 N A Fit

BETTING: 3-1 King's Road, 5-1 Sharmon Galle, 6-1 Ballysicyes, 7-1 Lord Noelle, Ricardo, 16-1 Tempestuces Ledy, 12-1 Storm Of Gold, 16-1 Yeomen Sellor, 20-1 Door To Door, Picket Pieco, Sarnabless, 25-1 Methalis, 30-1 Barrier Blass, In The Rough, Maulcal Silvig, 200-1 Dysant Cross 1598, Unserkable Speep 9 11 4 A P McCoy 10-11 fee (M Pipe) 12 ran

FORM GUIDE

Berlin Blue: Took 8 starts to get off the mark over hundles, but has now won at Huntingdon (2m4) good; handleap off 50) and Newbury (3m, good to firm) \$3/11 lask
Door To Door: Beat Russell Road smoothly by 4 lengths at Sandown (2m6), good to
solt) in February. Locked stayer of potential that day, but ran poorty 2 weeks later
Dysant O'Dea; Won twice in June, but has little chance in Grade 1 company
In The Rought: Formerly trained by David Nicholson, werning a bumper and fourth of
10 in a Jones hundle at Kempton. Not seen since February 1997 King's Roed: Top bumper horse insoft ground. Timbe winter over hundes and 13 lengths fourth to Earton at Chetterham, all at around 2m4! Will be better at 3m Lord Noelle: 2m6! winter at Stratford (good) and Wincanton (good to soft), at latter course beating Sceums Matte by 2 lengths. Progressing well and should stay 3m

Michiatria: Took bad fall on chasing debut two starts ago and was besten at 8-15 back over hundles on latest. Should stay 3m, but something to find even on his best Musical Sting: Wan at Worcester (2m4) heavy) and Earter (2m1) good). Not up to this judged on third in two hendicage, but the first attempt at 3m should help him Priotet Prece: Won 3 nonce handcage at around 2m on soft surface. Besten only a neck over 2m4 last time, but that suggested his improvement had come to an end Ricardo: Won at Towcester, Urticeter and Newbury on soft surface. South of 8 finishers in Supreme Nounces' at Chetentham (good). First thy beyond 2m1, improving Sentablesa: Winner time times. Has shaped as if will be well suited by 3m in defeat at Accot (technic Bucksoc) and Sandown (\$16,000 hereficap) less two outings Shannen Gale: Won at Leopardstown on return from 2-year absence, Well-bedged fourth of 19 to Generosa at Chetenham (3m2), good) gives him a fair channel here sterm Of Golds Progressive form at anumal 2m4 20 lengths that to lidings Road at Newbury and second of 11 (varyward late on) to Londershopbouffast at Sandown Weomen Sellion: 5 lengths second to Bosuns Nate at Newbury (3m, soft). Below that form when returned to 2m51 at some course next time. Cannot be ruled out. Temperatures Lady: Has won time of four starts the lemm, notably handcap off top weight at Sandown 2m61, good) last time. Too starts the lemm, notably handcap off top weight at Sandown 2m61, good). Shapes as at further than 2m1 will suit him well VERDICT: Plensy have possibilities and most are unexposed at this tota. The best with the Matters in the the will be the will be took the total the set NileSt 2000. Boot VERDICT: Pierry have possibilities and most are unexposed at this trip. The bea

Notifie at the Schember Sale, but was supplyed a SUA as sured a notice of notice before the step up an distance. Note has stepoed more as it this trip will suit them then King's Road, who has a teating thisnes even on his form at 2m41 Door To Door looked very prumsing two starts ago. 4.50 ODDBINS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS B) £20,000

تت	200ed 2m 4r
14F2B	BLOWING WIND (FR) (M) IP A Deet) M Pipe 6 12 0A P McCoy B
	KHAYRAWAM (ZI) (CO) (J P McMarus) C Roche (M) 7 ft 7
	RANGOW FRONTIER (23) (C D String) M Pige 5 to 11R Durwoody
2:221-	DANA POTINT (PS) (D) (Mrs S Smith) Mrs S Smith 7 to 10
	OUTSET (48) (CU) (M Kilner) M Herremond 9 to 6 M Herrecto (3)
+2130	SEPTEMBLS (USA) (22) (W V M W & Mrs E Pedants) N Hemberson 6 TO B M A Pitzgenald
140304	SADLER'S REALM (22) (D) (8 D Racing) P Hotos 8 to 2
P4500	BUDDY MARVEL (22) (R Opdart) Mrs M Percley 5 to 1
4-5442	DAPAPOUR (1) LI P McManus) A P OBnen (10,5 to 1
205515	EXECUTIVE DECISION (22) (M. Krysztofiak Racing) P Nichola 5 100
-31241	JUNGEJ (20) (Mrs P Starkey) P Webber 6 10 0
M5330	BLUEDONIX (FTI) (23) (Mrs D Thompson) D Nicholson 8 10 0
214612	BUDALUS (26) (D) (BF) U P McManus) C Swan (M) 7 10 D
212201	PEALINGS (20) (D) (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 7 100
125614	TAUFAN BOY (RD) (D) (Supreme Tears) G Balding 6 10 0
311451	HUNTING SLANE (14) (D) IJ H Richardson) C Grant 7 to 0

FORM GUIDE

Blowing Wind: Has not continued his progress into this season, best effort 11/s lengths second to Go-informal at Haydock (2m, soft). Having his first try at 2m41 second to Go-Informal at Haydock (2m, soft). Having he first try at 2mill Khayrawant 96-higher than when winning 30-unior Coral Qual Chathenham (2mS), good) by head from Mitomfeld. Has form on soft ground. Won this lest year Rainbow Promiter: Had exolvent first season over hundles, final win in Swinton Hand-cap at Haydock. Has gone blackwards this season, well beaten in Coral Cup last time Darro Pelnit: Restable and progressive last serm, beating Outset a length at Haydock (2mill good) final start. Had a satisfactory warm-up on the Flat lest week. Outset: Closely weighted with Dana Point on Haydock form, but well beaten in hot event at Ascot in February on only start since. Stable is in much better form now Serenus: Conselect in competitive handcape, witning at Kempton (2m, soft) on Barring Day, Goes well on soft ground. First Iny at 2mill should not be against him Sedfier's Realize: Won at Chepstow (2mill, good) in December, in Irame back at 2m in Krie Gold Trophy at Newbury and the Country Hurdle at Chatenham.

in Tote Gold Trophy at Newbury and the County Hurdle at Chettenham
Buddy Marvett Below form this term, but showed signs of a reward in the County Hurdle last time and is beginning to hook well handleapped. Should stay 2m4f
Darapour: 3th better off for 61/- lengths with Knaynswan in the Const Cup. Again ran well when second to Papo Khansma here (3m. good) yesterday
Executive Decision: Improved for bifikers last two storts, warning 5-ninner race at Chepstow (2m. theavy) and fifth in the County Hurdle. Not sure to appreciate 2m4f
Jungit: Winner at Urberter over both 2m (heavy) and 2m4f (good to soft), besting Polar Fight by 18 lengths over 2m4f last time, interesting novice on handleap debut 8/Jungits with an overer at Statiford and Ascot. 5th higher than when severely to Kheynawan in the Coral Cup, bestim about to lengthe heinig been in lead 2 out. Buddelan: That hurdles start when winning malden at Fain/house (2m4f, heavy) by 15 fangths. Creditable second in handleap latest. Out of handleap out has polential.

Peatings: In good form (tried at 2m6f when disappointing penultimete start) with win. Perlings: In good form (tried at 2m6) when disappointing penutimets start) with win over Warm Spell at Lingfield (2m3) good to soft) latest outing. The out of handicap Taufan Bay: Has won at Ascot (twice) and Newbury this season over 2m4. Has to improve agoin from 80 out of handicap. Below form at Unicoder latest quang Hunting Stants: Winner five times at minor tracks in the North Iris tarm, in clear-out style less time, but stiff task here. 14th out of handicap, Stays 3m, acts on any going

VERDICT: (Nayrawani and Sadier's Realin have form in top hondicaps and should run well, but they face some interesting mass who are either improving or unexposed at this trip. In the former category, novices Jungii and Budakus have to be taken very senously, while in the lotter there are Browing Wind and BUDDY MARVEL. Fourth of the is the closest that Buddy Marvet has come to winning this term, but his ninth in the County Hurder promised an imminent return to form and he is now on a winning mark.

PERRIER JOUET HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) \$15,000

.20	added 3m 1f (Mildmay course)
1142-3	EDELWEIS DU MOULIN (22) (C) (II) IR Opdan) Mas V Williams 7 1/1 10 R Dustwood
431224	THE LAND ACENT ET ID I Burst J Main's 6 11 6
-14231	ASHWELL BOY (34) (A 6 5 Racing) P Hottos 6 11 6
1/102	ISLAND CHIEF (24) (D) (G Diger) P Beaumont to 11 2
317233	STORM DAMAGE (27) (T Curry C Lewis P Mistrall) Olds) P Nistrals 7 to 12 I Tizza
	KENG WAH GLORY (SSI) (SF) (JP McHanus) C Rocks (41) 10 10 10
	CLIMITON (24) (D) (E N Thomas) K Baley 8 126N Williams
12-21P	NOTAL EVENT (141) (T J Wholey) D Gandolo 5 10 b
	1142-3 43*228 -14231 1/1102 317233 P3U/3- 11-118

Adversors weight: Tost. The transcap wasple: Royal Event Sct 10th. SETTING: 3-1 Edithmát Du Moulin, taland Chief, 7-2 Clinton, 6-1 Automail Boy, 7-1 King Web Glory, 9-1 The Land Agent, 16-1 Storm Damage, 20-1 Royal Event. 1998 Blue Charm 6.9 9 Wr M Bradhume Cl, 6-1 (Ars S Brachume) 6 ran

FORM GUIDE

Edelwels Du Moutin: Good reappearance third of 9 to Stomylahweather in the Cethoart at Cheltenham (2mSt, good). Only previous try at 3m (with) was on last ground. The Land Agent: Won at Wincanton (2mSt, soft) in January. Very good second to Dr Leurs in Reong Post Chase at Kempton (3m, soft) but ran poorly 2 weeks later. Astwell Boy: His last four wins have at been at odds on in small fields, and he often finds little in more competitive events. Doubtut stayer on this first try at 3m listend Chilet: Two good wins over 3m on soft this term and excellent second (3b higher here) to Settly 8 Goy at the Cheltenham Festival (3mit, good). Leading contender. Refer to betty a boy at the Uneartern resonal (arth, good). Latting continuous Sterm Damage: Good record at around 2 null on soft ground this term, withing twose, but, the The Land Agent, below form behind in The Bacod at Chepstow last time King Wath Glory. Third in the 1996 Galway Plate (and 1 good). Well handcapped on that form but has had only two starts since, the latest back in October 1997. that north cut has help key two same since, the seest back in October each Chinton: Very promising withing of novice events at Watwick (2m4), good to soft) and Hereford (2m1), good) first two chose storts. Brought down hartway at Chattenham Royal Event: 45 out of handicap, but chances on best, Won 9-runner handicap at System (2m5), good) in October by 6 lengths. Rain badly at Winderton morth later. VERDICT: Island Chief has strong claims again, but CLINTON looked a horse to fol-Now when winning his first two starts over fences and could prove a good deal better than this handlead mark. He was deried the chance to prove it at the Chetenham Restruct when brought down in the meice on the turn at hattway in the Futer Wathyn Kim Mul.: King Wath Glory is potentially well handleapped on his return from highry.

Even Flow to stop Pipe plan

THOUSANDS OF punters will walk into betting shops this morning convinced that they have a bet for the big race at Aintree which seems nothing short Martin Pipe, Tony McCoy sent a five-year-old to run in the John Hughes Memorial Chase over the National fences, and despite his youth, he won as impressively as any horse in the race's history. Today, they will attempt to repeat the trick with Gris D'Estruval, and the bookies will be treating him with as much caution as Double Thriller, favourite for tomor-

row's Grand National One of the traits which so endears Pipe to backers is that when be finds an angle of attack which works, he exploits it again and again. In recent seasons, he has imported a series of young chasers from France, where they bring their jumping horses on more quickly than their British counterparts, and run them against older horses who are forced to give them weight. Champleve, Cyfor Malta and Or Royal are among those to have won as a result.

The BHB is now considering ways to close this loophole, but Pipe, quite rightly, will keep trying to slip through it until they do. The question for punters, though, is whether Gris D'Estruval is in the same league as Cyfor Malta, who, you may recall, beat See More Business and Go Ballistic at Cheltenham this season before his campaign was ended by injury.

GRAND NATIONAL

By GREG WOOD

The worry, particularly when Gris D'Estruval is going to start at such a short price, is that his of pre-ordained. Twelve months jumping was novicey in the and the owner David Johnson enough - he is a novice, after all but not ideal around a circuit of the National fences. An alternative is EVEN FLOW (nap 3.45), a sound jumper who has had a quiet campaign which did not take in Cheltenham.

Punters who like to thread their bets into multiples will struggle to find much to go with him, though, since the remain-

RICHARD EDMONDSON Nap: Even Flow (Aintree 3.45) NB: Lord Noelie (Aintree 4.20)

FIRST SHO

9-6 197

der of the televised card features some solid favourites. One of the few crumbs of value could lie with Direct Route (next best 2.35), who has yet to prove himself at today's trip but could not have a less demanding track on which to do so.

Tempestuous Lady (4.20) may run well, but the novice chase involves several unreliable horses who may not jump, stay or both, while Barton will surely win the opener. Auetaler, who is part-owned by Robbie Fowler and Steve McManaman, is one of his better opponents but the decision to take on Barton looks as illjudged as Fowler's goal celehration at Anfield on Saturday.

GRAND N	ATIONAL SI	NEEP KIT
HORSE	DRAWN BY	TO CUT OUT
SUNY BAY		SUNY BAY
GENERAL WOLFE		GENERAL WOLFE
EARTH SUMMIT		EARTH SUMMET
COOME HILL		COOME HILL
CYBORGO		CYBORGO
EUDIPE	*	EUDIPE
DOUBLE THRILLER		
ADDINGTON BOY	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	DOUBLE THRILLER
TAMARINDO		ADDINGTON BOY
FIDDLING THE FACTS		TAMARINDO
BARONET		FIDDLING THE FACTS
CALL IT A DAY		BARONET
BELLS LIFE	·	CALL IT A DAY
AYRO ANSON		BELLS LIFE
KENDAL CAVALIER		AVRO ANSON
NAHTHEN LAD		KENDAL CAVALIER
MUDAHIM		NAHTHEN LAD
SAMLEE		MUDAHRM
BOBBYJO		SAMLEE
BRAVE HIGHLANDER		BOBBATO
BLUE CHARM		BRAVE HIGHLANDER
COMMERCIAL ARTIST		BLUE CHARM
FRAZER ISLAND	·	COMMERCIAL ARTIST
STRONG CHAIRMAN		FRAZER ISLAND
MERRY PEOPLE		STRONG CHAIRMAN
CAMELOT NNIGHT		MERRY PEOPLE
CAVALERO		CAMELOT KNIGHT
CASTLE COIN		CAVALERO
CHOISTY		CASTLE COIN
FEELS LIKE GOLD		CHOISTY
ST MELLION FAIRWAY		FEELS LIKE GOLD
BACK BAR		ST MELLION FAIRWAY
		BACK BAR

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Irvine wants more success

"IF I leave here still leading the World Championship," Eddie Irvine said yesterday as he prepared for Sunday's Brazilian Grand Prix, "I'll be a happy man. And if I'm still leading it after the 16th race that would be fantastic. But there is a very long, long way to go. I'm oot getting excited."

It has been a heady month for the 33 year-old from Duhlin, who scored his first World Championship victory when he steered his Ferrari home first in Melbourne on March 6. By Formula One standards it has been too long a period without action, due to the cancellation of the Argentinian Grand Prix, but Irvine has made the most of it. "I find that I'm heing followed round Milan by more photographers," he said, "which I'm not wild about, but, if that's the price of winning. I'll pay it."

A recent trip back to Northern Ireland for his mother's 60th birthday prolonged the celebrations. "Cars were driving past my Dad's garage beeping their borns, and the success was even mentioned in the Peace Talks at the Northern Ireland Assembly," Irvine noted with an uncharacteristic

touch of pride. Whether be can repeat the triumph this weekend is a moot point. Certainly, neither Irvine nor Ferrari's sporting director, Jean Todt, are willing to commit themselves, cowed by the

David Ash

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8-10, 100 to 22 Seen ber

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RICHARD EDMONDS

Num: Even Floor

(Aintree 3.45)

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MOTOR RACING

BY DAVID TREMAYNE

shadow of Michael Schumacher. Like every other team Ferrari has been testing incessantly since Melbourne but though the Australian race dealt an unusual hand of cards to some, it is far too soon for a true pattern to have established itself.

"The proper answer will become apparent over the weekend," Todt said carefully. "We do not yet know what the others may have achieved. But in Australia two things worked against us. We had not optimised our technical package, and we did not have an aerodynamic part. Now we have both, but whether or not they will be sufficient, we have no way to know"

If caution is the watchword at Ferrari, it is no different at McLaren. Melbourne indicated that the world champion team retains the sort of advantage it enjoyed at the start of 1998, but its reliability cost it a runaway success in Australia. Where Ferrari's testing has aimed to find speed. McLaren has chased reliabilitv. With the tests taking part at different venues, comparisons

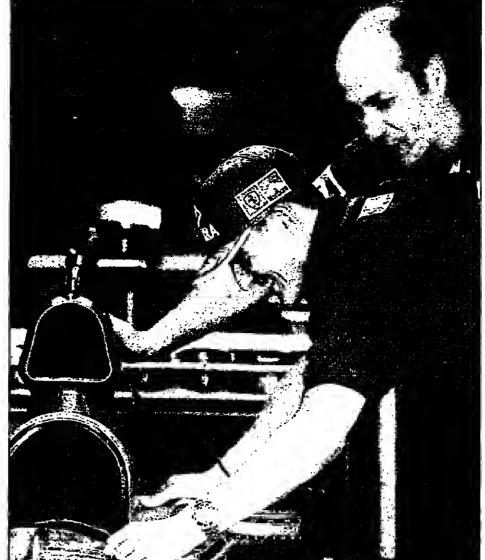
are academic. "We've been working very hard and we've done a lot of

miles," said McLareo's technical director, Adrian Newey. "We have achieved race distances, hut we have also had the odd failure. Sure, we've improved, hut we cannot be totally confident."

Newey nevertheless helieves that McLareo has made sufficient progress to move further ahead of their rivals than the 1.3sec gap that the champion, Mika Hakkinen, enjoyed in Melbourne. Ferrari appears to acknowledge that. Privately, Todt expects Mc-Laren to be dominant in qualifying, hut expects bis cars to match their pace in the race.

"We only got 95 per cent out of the car in Melhourne,' Michael Schumacher said. But while be hlamed part of the shortcoming on the team's inexperience running on Bridgestone tyres, after Ferrari used Goodyear last season, he also said that the team understands its car much better now: "With the small aerodynamic modifications that we have made I expect the gap to he much closer. But these things are always very difficult to predict."

So, too, is Ferrari's reaction to another Irvine victory. Todt was clearly uncomfortable with suggestions that a repeat might prove embarrassing to Schumacher's campaign, and his response was disingenuous. "People say that Ferrari depend totally on Michael Schumacher,"



لعكدا من الأجل

Michael Schumacher checks out his Ferrari at the São Paulo track yesterday AP

was a nice answer to them." The world knows that Fer-

be said. "Eddie's win. his first, to let his team leader go by should the occasion have

arisen in Australia. But Irvine is a master of this rari places all of its eggs in the Schumacher basket, and his particular poker game, and decontract gives him complete ferred openly to Todt. "Whatever happens, it would be nice priority. Irvine was instructed

to leave here and go to Imola still leading the World Championship, People might want me to start philosophising, hut there's nothing to say, I just, would like to lead going to Imola, pure and simple."

Hanley plans to check mate at Broncos

CHESS OPPONENTS Dan Stains and Ellery Hanley will pit their wits and strategy against each other on the rughy field for the first time tonight. Stains, the London Broncos coach, and Hanley, who has guided St Heleos to the top of Super League, are firm friends from their time together as players at the Sydney club, Balmain.

That friendship has been spiced with rivalry over the chessboard. "Wheo we started, Ellery always used to win, but I caught up and now it's pretty even." Stains said. "We managed a game in Leeds on Sunday night, but that was pretty relaxed because we're both a bit

rusty.
"We spent a lot of time together at Balmain and played a lot of chess. He's first-class, a high-quality person in every area of his life, so it's no surprise to me that he's making a

success of his coaching."

Despite the strong link between the two coaches, there will be no sacrificed pawns at The Stoop tonight, with the Broncos needing to bounce back from their first defeat of the season, at Headingley on

Monday. Stains has three forwards ready to return - Peter Gill, Robbie Beazley and Robbie Simpson - but loses Dean Callaway with a knee strain and Matt Salter with the afterRUGBY LEAGUE

By Dave Hadfield

try to beat Saints for the first

time in their history. "We're looking forward to the challenge of St Helens," he insisted. "They're a big, strong. powerful side with a lot of speed and we'll have to be at our best against them."

As if to emphasise the talent Hanley has available, he can recall Paul Newlove tooight after the Great Britain centre missed the impressive win over Bradford with a dead leg. Cluh captain Chris Joynt could also be fit for his first Super League appearance of the season, but Saints' forwards have performed so well in his absence that he might have to ease his way back via the substitutes'

Wigan will be without Greg Florimo and Kris Radlinski for the visit of Warrington on Sunday, after both suffered injuries in the victory at Wakefield on Monday. With scrum-halves Tony Smith and Mark Reber still absent, Jnhn Monie could field the oddest-looking Wigan half-back pairing for many years - Andy Farrell and Jason Robinson.

The Workington forward, Paul Forber, bas been suspended for five matches after being cited for the deliberate effects of concussion as London use of the forearm.

AINTREE

2.35: With such a fine record of going well when fresh, there has to be a slight doubt about CALL EQUINAME'S ability to run up to his best three weeks after his win at Cheltenham But Paul Nicholls had Flagship Uberalles in top coodition yesterday on his return from Cheltenham glory and Call Equiname should have no problem with today's longer trip, having shown staying abilpe pial ity in his novice days. Direct Route has almost five lengths to find on their Festival running and may always prove best

over the minimum trip.

3.10: Nicky Henderson thought loog and hard about finding the best race for Makounji at Cheltenham. The Arkie Trophy was the final choice over the really matter because the mare was in season and ran oo sort of race. How she copes with this extended three miles is anyone's guess and the faster ground is also a worry. His Song is even more of a guess away from two miles and Spendid's jumping can be suspect wheo he is in action on a sharp course. That leaves the National Hunt Festival.

HYPERION'S

TV TIPS

EVER BLESSED with every hope of landing a decent prize He has long been beld in high regard and has duly passed two easy tests since his win from the decent King's Banker.

3.45: Micky Hammond won the Glenlivet Hurdle with Deep Water last year and here be runs a fresh, fast-ground lover in MONYMAN against Gris D'Estruval Monyman won at Newcastle after a three-month rest and at decent odds it is worth chancing that he will stay the trip.

tenham over two miles and five furlongs, KING'S ROAD has been crying out for three miles and gets it for the first time today. He has a touch of class as well, and should stay on too strongly for proven stay er Shannon Gale and the twomile winner Ricardo, both of whom also ran with credit at

Aintree 3.10

He Song 41 03 31 72 41

Ever Biocoad 41 92 11-2 92 41

Village King 5-1 5-1 6-1 9-2 5-1

King Of Sports 15-1 20-1 12-1 20-1 14-1

Cart. Bendita's 33-1 40-1 33-1 50-1 33-1

Exchange a quarter the odds, places 1, 2

94 94 52 52 94

103 103 31 103 742

LINGFIELD

2.20 Paris Star 2.55 Little Italy 3.30 Yellnw Ribbon 4.05 Spander 4.40 Castles Burning 5.10 Shades Of Love

GOING: Standard STALLS: 51 - outside; remainder - inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low best up to 1m, especially for 60 ■ Left-hand, Undularing course.
■ Course is SE of town on B2028. Lingfield station (served by

III COUSE IS SEED TOWN OF BOUZE English Station (Served by London, Victoria) adjoins course. ADMISSION: Club £15. Family Enclosure £10. CAR PARK: Club £3; remainder free. III.LEADING TRAINERS: G.L. Moore 57-698 (1394), M. Johnston 49-288 (1796), R. Hannon 49-379 (1294), Miss G. Kellewoy 45-338 (1334). (17%), H Hannon 49:379 (125%), Bassa G Kellewby 45:439 (135%).

■ LEADING JOCKEYS: A Clark 79-623 (127%), J Weaver 70-328 (133%), S Sanders 65:567 (115%), R Cochrane 68:361 [161%]

■ FAVOURITES: 760-2246 (338%).

TONGUE STRAP; None BLINKEREO FIRST TIME: None.

LONG OISTANCE RUNNERS: Paris Star (220) & Marengo (405) TANDRIDGE MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS

4	D) £4,500 added 2YO 5f
1	4 DIRECT REACTION (15) Miss G kelleway 90 K Fallon
2	0 PARKS STAR (15) (HF) J Berry 9 0 K Darley
3	4 BLUE VELVET (4) K Ivory 89 Dans O'Neil
4	KIGEMA C Allen 89 Weaver
5	KIRSCH C Dwver 89 D Holland
6	MITCHELLS MAYHEM W G M Turner 89 T Sprake
7	TRMELESS CHICK A Ped 8 9
	- 7 declared -

SEDGEFIELD

HYPERION

2.10 Karaylar 2.45 In Good Faith 3.20 Hilton-

stown Lass 3.55 Taits Clock 4.30 Barnhurgh

GOINO: Good to Firm I Firm in places.

Hert-hand, undulating course Easy tences and long run-in.

Course is in SE of town near junction of A689 and A fir? Stockton station 9m or Durham station 12m. ADMISSION: Paddick 99 (OAP's D6); Course 52. CAR PARK: Free.

HEADING TRAINERS: Mis M Revoley 62 247 (251%), a Elisson 8-121 (A9%). J N Johnson 18-161 (fi2%), O M Moore 17-109 (56%).

LEADING JOCKEYS: P Niven 42-167 (251%), a Lee 20-95 (211%). L Wyer 16-109 (147%). A Dobbin 16-156 (95%).

TONGUE STRAP: Leap in The Dark, Karaylar (210). Carisma (245). Surgiount Mulfarkoy, Powder Princ (220). Royal Mountibrowne, (01-drammy Castle (155): Jarneb, Elegent Pan (200); Similot, The Accountant (530).

2.10 JOHN WADE SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (G) £2,500 2m 5f 110yds

| HURDLE (G) E2,500 2m 5f 110yds | P200-F ETERNAL CITY (67) (D) N Richards 8 70 Mar J Crowley (5) | 519-49 SWANDALE FLYER (20) (C) N Bycont 7 10 9 ... B Gratison (3) | 594U40 LEAP IN THE DARK (18) Miss L Scholl 10 11 7 ... T Siddell (5) | 4 M-P2P DAUPHIN BLEU (60) (D) P Excles 13 13 ... Miss V Roberts (7) | 50000 HARROUSS (MARPINOR) (F87) HAsarder 5 12 ... M R Formatal (5) | 8 SS155 MARPINDA (114) Miss K Miligan 5 10 3 ... F Leating 050000 LEAPY GROVE (4) J Upson 7 10 13 ... E Husband B 23PDS SAUCY NUIN (6) (CD) P Hain 7 10 13 ... E Callaghan 10 UP-0RP AMAZING SAU (100) (CD) (SF) J L Eyre 8 10 13 ... A 5 Sinkh 11 3P4PPD CLAVERING (4) E Carle 9 10 9 ... Mir O Fagan 10 P-0RP AMAZING SAU (100) (CD) (SF) J L Eyre 8 10 13 ... A 5 Sinkh 11 3P4PPD CLAVERING (4) E Carle 9 10 9 ... Mir O Fagan 24 min (5 ARZHAR (16) (CD) W Storey 7 10 6 ... R McGrath 20000 REBEL KING (4) (C) M Barnes 9 10 4 ... S Taylor 14 0005 THE GREY BAY (23) M/s M Reveley 7 10 1 M H Maughton (5) 552436 SETON BLAKE (23) M Meagher 5 10 3 ... B Storey 18 SP024 REAL FIRE (23) (BF) M Maughter 5 10 2 ... G Lee V -- To declared ... Betting 1 fire, 8-1

BETTING: 4-1 The Grey Bay, 5-1 Carol Ageir, 7-1 Martenese, Real Fire, 8-1 Herkones Warrior, Setton Blake, 10-1 Karaylar, Leafy Grove, 14-1 others

FORM VERDICT

An open race in which several warrant close scrutiny. Amaz-ing Sali is tempting on this first run for Lee Eyre, but mar-ginal preference is for REAL PIRE, who is tairly weighted, in some form and for whom conditions look ideal.

FORM VERDICT

The most interesting of the newcomers is Kirsch, who had been well backed prior to her withdrawal at Musselburgh last week and has the rail draw today. But both Oirect Reaction and PARIS STAR have the advantage of age (both are two months or more older than the remainder) and ol race expenses. Jack Berry's cold showed much more early speed in the Brocklesby Stakes than his rival and may be able to turn the tables under roday's faster conditions.

2.55 WATCH THE DERBY TRIAL MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) 25,250 added 6f 1 00-000 ARAB GOLD ITS M Chart 49 ID F. Norton 3
2 3-5340 JONATHAN'S GIRL (22) JB-opge 4.95 R Brisland (7) 2
3 000- DANNY POWER (198) T D Barron 38 IC ... T Outen 1
4 04060 NOW IS THE HOUR (187) P Felgare 38 IC ... A Micholis (5) 6
5 0 ELENII (8) Mass G Kelevey 58 7 Dane O'Neil 4
6 50- UTTLE ITALY (172) (8F) P Cole 38 7 C Ruser S
—6 doctared —
BETTING: 4-9 Little Italy, 5-1 Elenii, 6-1 Danny Power, 10-1 Jonathan's Girl, 14-1 Now is The Hour, 23-1 Arab Gold

FORM VERDICT A distrial marden, contested mainly by plating-class performers LITTLE ITALY is the clear form pick on her debut and is unlike

ly to find a better opportunity of winning a race. 3.30 PHILIP HALL MEDIAN AUCTION MAID-EN STAKES (E) £3,500 3YO 1m 2f

044 NOMERCY (164) J HIS 9 0 64300 SATRIA (9) Mes û referriy 9 0 2650 SON OF SNURGE (FR) (15) P Cole 9 0 300- YELLOW RIBBON (221) B HIS 8 9 . I Ouinn 3 ... X Fallon 4 . J Fortune 1 M Hills 2 BETTING: 4-5 Yellow Ribbon, 7-2 Son OI Sturge, 9-2 No Mercy, 7-1 Satria

With Son Of Snurge becoming disappointing and Yellow Rib-bon difficult to assess, the solid one here is NO MERCY whose

4.05 NIGEL KENT-LEMON MEMORIAL HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,250 6f

FORM VERDICT

TOHM VEHILL?

Today may be the day for ALJAZ, who has dropped 14th in the weights this year and left the strong impression last week that his turn was near. Sotonian has plenty on at the weights under a penalty for his furl win off a mach lower mark on Monday while Acid Test has looked more at home over 71 here of late and Eltway Prince seems to have lost his way. Mailia and Marengo have to prove themselves here although have claims if taking to Equitrack.

4.40 MALCOLM GILLARD 'HAPPY 50TH BIRTHDAY H'CAP (E) £3,500 1m 2f

- 14 declared -BETTING: 7-2 Castles Burning, 4-1 & Destino, 6-1 Ki Chi Soga, 7-1 Kings Arrow, 10-1 Controrter, Kafil, 12-1 Without Friends, 16-1 others FORM VERDICT

Most of these find winning difficult so top weight Castles Bushing, who is an honourable exception to that, has to be respected. Sut if it. DESTINO can repeat the form he showed when third to Byzantium here in December he should be hard to

5.10 BRING YOUR FAMILY TO THE DERBY

FORM VERDICT

No guaranteed front runner in the line-up so it is possible an enterprising ride could be rewarded STOPPES BROW won in good style here last week when kided clear before the home turn, and even under his penalty remains on a potentially decort mark. Mister Tricky and Mutabari may be his main mals.

Blue Cloud, André Fabre's highly regarded 1,000 Guineas entry, reappears in the Prix Imprudence over seven furlongs at Maisons-Laffitte today. A 12-1 chance with Coral for the first fillies' Classic, Blue Cloud has been the subject of some favourable reports.

FIRST SHOW

Ai	ntre	e 2	.35		
	2	H		S	_7
Cali Equiname	5-4	BV	_ 01	EV	
Direct Ribute	11-4	3-1	_52	3-1	5-1
Opera Hat	6-1	11-2	13-2	11-2	6-1
Super Coin	6-1	6-1	6-1	6-1	7-1
Challenger Du L	12-1	21	14-1	14-1	12-1
Mulfigan	14-1	12-1	12-1	2-1	12-1
Each-way o	quantér	the oc	ich, ph	ices 1,	2

Ai	intre	e 4	.20		
	C	_ H_	L	S	
King's Road	10-3	3-1	3-1	10-3	3-1
Shannon Gale	5-1	5-1	5-1	41	4-1
Balysloyas	5-1	71-2	6-1	11-2	77-2
Land Noelle	6-1	7-1	7-1	6-1	8-1
Ricerdo	6-1	15-2	7-1	7-1	<u>6-1</u>
Temperayous L	16-1	10-1	16-1	16 <u>-1</u>	10-1
Storm Of Gold	14-1	12-1	12-1	16-1	12-1
Weamon Stallor	16-1	18-1	14-7	18-1	16-1
Door To Door	20-1	20-1	25-1	20-1	25-1
Picket Piace	26-1	25-1	20-1	25-1	25-1
Santablees	25-1	20-1	20-1	25-1	25-1
in The Rough	25-1	25-1	33-1	28-1	251
McHatile	25-1	33-1	25-1	25-1	25-1
Musical Sing	33-1	261	33-1	33-1	33-1
Berlin Blue	20-1	33-1	35-1	40 1	33-1
Dysart O'Des	200-1	200-T	200-1	200-1	200-1
Embass o	Die de	- codete	~	-12	3

Aintree 5.20					
	. с	_ н	5		
Edwheels Du Moulin	3-1	7-2	7-2	7-2	
Internal Chief	10-3	5-2	7-2	11-4	
Clinton	34	72	41	103	
King Wah Glory	7-1	7-1	11-2	<u>7-1</u>	
Storm Damage	7-1	7-1	B-1	7-1	
Astronal Boy	10-1	11-1	8-1	10-1	
The Land Agent	10-1	11-1	11-1	11-1	
Royal Exect	20-1	14-1	61	14-1	
Each-way, a filth th	e ociois	pince	s 1, 2,	3	

*THE IND	EPEN	DENT
RACING	SERV	ICES
0891	261	+
LIVE COMMEN	TARIES	AESULTS
AINTREE	971	981
SEDGEFIELD	972	982
LINGFIELD	973	983

ALL COURSES RESULTS

0891 261 970

C Coral, H Wm Hil, L Lacbroles, S Starriey, T To					
Aintree 3.45					
	C	Н	Ļ	S	_
Gris D'Entruvai	92	7-2	9-2	9-2	
Outbook Way	7-1	15-2	7-1	15-2	
Liston Rocks					
Nation	10-1	11-1	12-1	10-1	1
Plyhane					
Exan Flow	14-1	14-1	12-1	14-1	14
Linden's Latio	12-1	12-1	21	2-1	14
Noyen	12-1	14-1	14-1	14-1	14
Liston Timony	16-1	16-1	16-1	16-1	10
Maitro De Mitrs.	11-1	11-1	16-1	14-1	10
Santa Concerto					
Wayward King	14-1	16-1	14-1	14-1	1
Carley Lad	20-1	81	<u>15-1</u>	81	1
Notive Status	22-1	22-1	20-1	20-1	1
Balyine					
Monyman					
River Lineidon					

Red Bean 40-1 28-1 33-1 33-1 33-1

The Earns 20-1 50-1 25-1 33-1 33-1

Each-way, a quaster the octris, places 1, 2, 3, 4

C Const. H With Hit, L. Lachrolies, S. Starriey, T Toler

100-1 100-1 180-1 100-1 100-1

	,					
	A	intre	e 4	.50		
	l	С	Н	Ļ	\$	
	Khaycawani	51	6-1	<u>6</u> 1	₿1	13
	Blowing Water	6-1	7-1	7-1	61	7-1
_	Buddy Marvet					
ŀ	Jangë	7-1	15-2	7-1	5-1	7:1
ı	Decapour	9-1	13-2	10-1	16-1	8-
J	Sector's Resira	8-1	10-1	81	8-1	6
ł	Dana Point	12-1	10-1	12-1	10-1	124
ı	Cuteet	n-1	11-1	12-1	n-1	10-1
ı	Elkundonik	6-1	14-1	124	14-1	14
ı	Executive Dec.	11-1	14-1	141	121	11-1
ł	Serence		<u>12-1</u>			
1	Sudakis	16-1	10 <u>-1</u>	14-1	16-1	15-1
ı	Pasiings	25-1	25-1	<u>22</u> 1	251	2

Pleasabour Franci. 20-1 28-1 20-1 25-1 20-1

Tauther Boy 33-1 33-1 22-1 33-1 33-1

Hunding Sterne 50-7 50-1 50-1 50-1 40-1

Each way a quater fre adds, places 1, 2, 3, 4

COST H With Hit L Lacksches S Startey Y Total

4	DIRECT REACTION (15) Miss G kelleway 90 K Fallon
0	PARKS STAR (15) (BF) J Berry 90 K Darley
4	BLUE VELVET (4) K Ivory 89 Dans O'Neil
	KIGENA C Alen 89 Weaver
	KIRSCH C Dwyer 89 D Holiano
	MITCHELLS MAYHEM W G M Turner 89 T Sprake
	TIMELESS CHICK A Red 8 9
	-7 declared -

BETTING: 8-4 Direct Reaction, 7-4 Paris Star, 8-1 Mitchella Mayham, 10-1 Shao Vehvet, Kirstch, 20-1 Kigerna, Threless Chick

Boy 5.00 Jaraab 5.30 Andy's Lad

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Owens Quest (3.55).

FORM VERDICT

fourths in similar events last autumn suggest a race of this nature is well within his compass.

2.45 JOHN JOYCE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 1f

BETTING: 4-1 Curtainsatchopeed! 9-2 fbn Maeirah, One Stop, 5-1 Enny, 8-1 Karlema, 9-1 Teme Valley. 11-1 In Good Fath. 14-1 Salinger

FORM VERDICT

A trappy into race Farity-weighted ONE BTOP may be able to build on her renacous less imneous Newcastle win over a C&D she has run well over in the past, though Curtain-satishopwell is one of two or three very plausible alternatives.

3.20 STANLEY THOMPSON MEMORIAL HUNTER CHASE (H) £2,000 3m 3f

HUNTER CHASE (H) £2,000 3m 3f

1. P-M22 DESE MARSHALL (P12) A Partock 11 in 12. Mr A Pennock (7)

3. 12-15 DROMHANA (P20) Mr R Wormall 9 in 12. Mr A Pennock (7)

3. 12-12 HIJDONSTOWN LASS (24) (C) T Vestord 9 in 12. Mr Nywistord (7)

4. 5234P MULLINGAR (P13) Mr S Bet 10 in 12. Mr J Event (7)

5. SPAM SENGEANT MULLARVEY (P12) J Cerr In 12. Mr L McGrath (7) B

6. Fr2P- SYD GREEN (319) 4 Walver in 11 12. Mr L McGrath (7) B

7. P. FP2N THE MINISTER (P13) Mrs. J Barn 8 in 7. ... Mr N F Smith (5)

8. 05P-P1 POWDER PRIM (P5) Mrs. J Barn 8 in 7. ... Mr N F Smith (5)

8. 05P-P1 POWDER PRIM (P5) Mrs. J Barn 8 in 7. ... Mr N F Smith (5)

8. 05P-P1 POWDER PRIM (P5) Mrs. J Barn 8 in 7. ... Mr N F Smith (5)

9. 8 declared —

BETTING: 8-13 Historistown Lass, 5-1 Deise Marshall, Powder Prim, 10-1

Syd Green, 14-1 Drombarne, Mullingar, The Minester, 33-1 Sergeant Mulliartey

FORM VERDICT

past. Bues the ground and has a very good chance on his old form.

3.55 REG AND RIDLEY LAMB MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE (E) 25,500 2m 51

1 42SUP BRIGHTER SKADE (20) (D) Mrs M Roveley 9 12 0 P Niver 2 3UG34U ROYAL MOUNTBROWNE (24) (D) Mrs M Roveley 1 11 12

3 1231F JUKE BOX BILLY (329) (CD) Mrs J Brown 11 10 11 B Fenton 4 500025 TAITS CLOCK (36) (D) F Murphy 10 10 B. Mr J P Michamera (5)

win Lass is very much the one to beat but although she acts on the ground she may be a bit better with more give. Consequently it could be worth taking a chance on sea-sonal debutant SYD GREEN, who has gone well tresh in the

M6001 ERINY (USA) 111 (D) J J J J J Guern 10 93 13 -50440 SALINGER (99) (CD) F Murtagh 11 10 13 604041 ONE STOP (16) M Barnes 6 10 8 - 8 declared -

Jagger 8st 3th BETTING: 7-2 Taits Clock, 4-1 Brighter Shade, 5-1 Pariah, 11-2 Owens Quest, 7-1 Cumberland Blues, 8-1 The Toesler, 12-1 Royal Mountbrowns,

FORM VERDICT

Brighter Shade could well win this without coming off the bride but the fact list he bied last time suggests all is not well with him. Jutke Box allify and The Toestor have chances after their breaks but it could be worth taking a chance on CUMRSERLAND BLUES, who is undoubtedly well handicapped now and has conditions in his tevour for the first time for ages.

4.30 RACING CHANNEL ON COMCAST NOVICE CHASE (D) £5,500 2m 110yds

67203 ANLWCH (11) (D) J Berry 6 71 6... S Keily (S) 211(2) BARNEURGH BOY (18) (D) T Exsterly 5 71 3... P Mives 02230 J DE SHAW (44) Kers M Reverse 6 71 0... R McGrath 010 JUDICIOUS CHARLIE (61) J Adam 7 11 0... Mr D Reid (7)

- 8 declared -BETTING: 8-11 Bamburgh Boy, 2-1 Amiwith, 6-1 Joe Shaw, 20-1 Meldrum Park, 40-1 others

Bamburgh Boy is the form choice, but it could pay to give AMLWCH a whill at better odds. He may well appreciate the fast ground more than Bamburgh Boy, and with his rider good value to insiciarn, he does not have much to find on his best form anyway, Judicious Charlie is a potential threat to both, but this well-regarded sort has a lot to prove at this stage in

5.00 RACING CHANNEL ON TELE WEST NOVICE H'DLE (E) (DIV I) \$3,000 2m 1f

0-P6 WRANGEL (FH) (39) J Fitz Seroid 5 11 0 P Niven 00-0 HONEY SPICE (39) J Clives 7 10 9 E Colleghan 0-0303 LINGBECKY (11) E W Tues 5 10 9 L Cooper (7) 00 ELECANT FAN (USA) 1101) W Storey 4 10 8 A McGrath 6P THE GAMBOLLER (120) M Scoreysby 4 10 8 A S Smith 10 declared =

BETTING: 2-1 Jolly Minster, 9-4 Jarash, 11-4 Es Go, 8-1 Linbecky, 16-1 Wrangel, 33-1 others

FORM VERDICT JARAAB is open to improvement over hurdles and against the doubly-penalised Es Go, makes most appeal. The Gam-botter is interesting on ground which will suit much better but he was a tricky oustionner on the Flat and is not guaranteed

5.30 RACING CHANNEL ON TELE WEST NOVICE HOLE (E) (DIV II) £3,000 2m 1f

- 10 declared -BETTING: 8-4 Andy's Lud, 13-6 Moving Arrow, 6-1 Academy, 14-1 Sim-let, 16-1 Union Town, 20-1 Suggest, 25-1 others FORM VERDICT

ANDY'S LAD looks the one to beat, though neither trip nor ground are Rely to be ideal. It is hard to work up much entitudes the others, though Academy has a chance of doing better on this more suitable ground.

■ Martin Pipe has booked Conor O'Dwyer for Cyborgo in tomorrow's Grand National The former top staying burdler has had a wind operation but his owner, Hugh Duder, is only hopeful that the nine-year-old can recapture his sparkle. The gelding, along with Castle Coin and St Mellion Fairway yesterday became the first Grand National contender to be declared to run in a tongue strap.

RACING RESULTS

AINTREE Going: Good to Soft (Soft in places) 2.00; (2m 110yds novice hurdle)

S ran. 4. 31k. 5. 5. 31k. (Winner bey golding by Topenoore out of Mursume, trained by C Roche at the Curragh, Co Kildere, lor J P McMenus), Tote: £210; £120, £190. \$2.20. DF: £5.50. CSF: £8.50

2.35: (3m 1(Martel Cup Chase)

1. MACGEORGE _____A Maguire T1-1

2. Escartefigue _____R Johnson 9-4

3. Dr Leunt _____R Ounwoody 12-1 Also ran: 13-8 tav Majadou (5th), 3-1 Go Balistic (4th). Saint. 1/b, 11, 1/l., 2/h. (Winner bay geld-ing by Mandalus out of Colleen Donn. trained by R Lee at Prestagne for Mrs J H Watson). Tota: C10,20; £2,20, €160. DF: £950, CSF; £3£78.

3.10: (2m novice chase) 1. FLAGSHIP UBERALLES_ J Tizzard 5-2 jt tav
2. Grimes _______ C O'Dwyer 6-1
3. Down Leader T J Murphy 5-2 jt tav

Also ran: 100-30 Tiesor De Mar (5th), 11-1 Clifton Best (4th), 33-1 Circus Star (6th), 66-1 Damza. 7 ran. 9 hd. 5. 15. 13 (Winner brown geld-

ing by Accordion out of Fourth Degree trained by P Nicholis at Shepton Mallel for E Gutner & M Krysztofiak Racing) Tota: C320; £190, £240 Dual Forecast: £1380 CSF: £1425. 3.45; (2m Si hunter chase)
1. ELEGANT LORD Mr P Fenton 7-4 lav

2. Mely Moss ____Mr A Dempsey 11-2 3. Kibreel _____Mr R Forristal 20-1 Also ran: 7-1 Rough Quest, 9-1 Formal Invitation, 14-1 Whale Of A Knight 18-1 Gale Toi, 20-1 Charmer's Well Idiotic (4th), 25-1 Mr Boston (5th), 33-1 Court Master (6th). NW BOSION (BUR), 33-1 COUT master (auty-Desert Calm, The Crazy Bishop, 50-1 Pon-toon Bridge, Young Nimrod, 100-1 Apple John, Auvillar, Bilbo Bagguns Fiscal Policy, Golden Savannah, Sands OI Gold Toms Gemm Star, Walls Court 23 ran. 7, 13, 2, 16, 1% (Wenner chestrul

getting by Land He He out of Giolle Sheen trained by Enda Bolger in relaind for J P McManus) Tote: \$250: \$150, \$280, \$420 DF: \$930, \$35: \$789, NR: Around The Hom 1. HORS LA LOI III.A P McCoy 8-15 lav Also ran: 6-1 Simply Gilled (4th) 11-1 Tequita (5th), 66-1 Sharpaten (6th)

6 rain, 31°, 3, 3 ii, 6, dist (Winner bay gelding by Cyborg out of Quintessence III trained by M Pipe at Wellington for Paul Green), Tote: £150; £100, £130, DF, £250; CSF, £402 4.50 (2m 4f novice handicap chase)

3. Mensels — A Dobbin 28-1
Also ran: 5-1 tav Foundry Lane (4th).
3-2 Fourth in Line (5th), 7-1 Sad Mad Bad
8-1 Society Sinet (6th), 12-1 Heavens
Above Royal Toast, Strong Tel, 25-1 Foursels Tribe Nosam, 50-1 Charles Fourior
13 ran, 9, 1%, 1%, 5-9, 1Wanner chestnut
gelding by Trip Moss, out of Gail Vamn
traned by Mippe at Wellington for P A Dealt
Tote: 1970, 2500, 252-0 6420 DE CALLO.
CSF (6548 Tribase) 1882 Royalis Resiliand CSF £4548 Tricast £82280 NRs Ballad

7-1 Merry Masquerade, 15-2 Wisley Wonder, 10-1 Alpine Perither Ginger Fox 12-1 Pha-ramear (5th) 50-1 Churchiown Glen, Java Track, 100-1 E-alted (6th), 200-1 Otter

14 rain 1% 27 % 18 In Winner bei gelding by Rakaposti king out of Royal Pem trained by P Hobbs at Manehead for The Hedonisis), Tota: £13.90; £3.00, £2.10, £5.00 OF: £31.20, CSF; £56.61, Tricast; £729.82, Tri-fecta, £3.051.90, NR; Just Nip. Jackpot: £3,236.40. Placepot: £3,236-40. Quadpot: £23.30.

Place B: £50.19 Place 5: £33.11.

LEICESTER Going: Good 2.15; 1. TOPATORI (S Drowne) 5-2; 2. Gaily Mill 11-4 fay; 3. Scene 15-2 14 ran. 11/1, 21/1. (M Tompkins, Newmarket) Tota: \$4.80; \$160 \$290 \$240 DF: \$910 CSF: \$502 Tn-Cast C8792. 2.45: 1. MUTAAKKOO (G Hind) 8-1: 2. Emma

Peel 10-1; 3. Kaemen 7-1; 8 ran. 3-1 fav Gunea Hunter (5th), 11/L, sh hd. (J Gosden, Newmarket) Tole: £13.50; £2.80, £2.80, £2.10, DF; \$41.60 CSF; £76.86, Result Stands After a stewards' inquiry the result stood. 3.20: 1. GOLDEN SYRUP (J. Quirn) 14-1: 2. Split The Aces 50-1, 3. Lady Caroline 9-1 16 ran. 6-11 tav Plutocrat. sh hd. 1% (P Houston Contains (P Howling, Godalming) Tate: \$16.90; \$420. \$2950. \$230. OF: \$96790. CSF: \$57525. Winner bought in for 5250 guiness.
3,55: 1, PHEISTY |K Fallon| 9-1; Z. Bold
State 9:2: 3, Charming Lotte 20-1 13 ran.
7:2 for Berheley Dido, hd. 7-, (R Johnson
Houghton, Didoot; Tole; 88:0; 2200, 2190,
1580 DF £4040 CSF, £4266. 4.30 1. TOTO CAELO (M Hills) 6-3 lav. 2. Man of Courage 5-2: 3. Height of Fentasy 7-2 10 ran. 1% 3% (S Hills, Lambourn).

Tota: £2.70; £110; £180; £190; Duai Forecast: £311; Computer Straight Forecast: £4.81 5.00; 1. ALGUNNAAS (G Hnd) 15-8; 2. En-lertainor 7-4 fer; 3. Rainshack 10-1 13 ren-2/s. sh hd. (J Gosden, Newmarket) Tota: £2.20; £110; £190; £280; £520; £55; £4.72.

NR: Aquatic King. 5.30: 1. SURE DANCER (J Fortune) 5-4 tav. 2. The Exhibition Fox 40-1; 3. Backcloth 13-2, 13 ran. 3, 2%, (P Cole, Whatcombe). Tota: £160; £160, £3.70, £150, DF; £38.70. CSF: £63.12 6.00: 1. KALA SUNRISE (J Fanring) 14-1, 2.

Great News 7-1; 3. Tumbleweed Hero 7-1; 4. Oudalmateens 33-1 20 rer 9-2 fav Weetman's Weigh. 14. 14. (G Smith. Wellingore) Total: COA); 53:40; 64:30; 52:20. 55:0. DF: \$85:20. CSF: \$10785, Tingast: \$7:970. Place 6: £30140. Place 5: £179.26.

TAUNTON Going: Good to Firm (Firm in places)
2.25: 1. GRIEFINSIDE CHAT (I. Aspell)
33-1; 2. Smuggler's Point 14-1; 3. Karen's
Typhoon 14-1, 15 rar., 2-1 fav The Minder
4th, shird, 1'A. (I. Dase), Tota: £5660; \$880,
£4-0, \$250, DF: £562.20, CSF: £4307, Tincast: £6074.97, MR: Evenked,
2.55: 1. High GALE (P Hide) 6-1; 2. Run
For Court 1, 1-2 Responsant 7-2, 10 pa. For Cover 11-1; 3, Rosencrantz 7-2, 10 ran. 9-4 lav North killenny, 5-3 (P Micholls). Total: 55.20; £2.30; £160, £150 DF- £2660 CSF:

5.10: 1. BUZZ O'THE CROWD (Mr R Woollacott) 9-2; 2. Mister Horatio 4-1; 3. Still In Business 5-2 tw. 7 ram. /a. /v. (Mrs. F Walker) Tote: \$920; \$2.70, \$3.00, \$15; \$12.30. CSF: \$20.09. NRs: Bells Wood, King Yorus. Tandem. 5.40: 1. ZINE LANE (L. Corcoran) 12-1; 2. Spick And Span evens lav; 3. Erlking 11-17 ran. hd, 14. (lan Wilhams). Tote: \$15.70; \$240, \$140, DF: \$150, CSF, \$22.52, Treast:

\$129.77. NRs: Atlantic Mist, Dragon King, Nine

sue 1. LIDUSLET [R Greene) 6-1: 2. Raid 5-1: 3. Guido 4-1: 12 ran. 17-5 lav The Gene Gene (8th) 14: 8. (M Pipe), Totte: 5740; S150, 5200, 5180 Dual Forecast: 5770, CSF: 53247. Non Rumners: Barren Lands, Party Romanca.

4.05: 1. NERE'S TO HOWIE (S Wynne) 11-

2; 2. Fuero Real 8-1; 3. Classic Mas-querade 8-1; 7 ran. 4-6 fav Miss Fara. 3; 1% (M Bosley) Tote: 5450; \$150, \$220, DF; \$1460, CSF; \$4382 Non Runners; Candie Candie Companio Corport Date, Decisional

Wish You Love, Rise Above, Under The

4.40: 1. COUNTRY STORE (9 Greene) 7-

a tay, 2, Jultara 5-2; 3, Vicosa 6-1 S ran.

1%, 18 (M Pipe) Total: £190; £100 £200 Dual Forecast: £310 Computer Straight Forecast: £657 Tricast: £2384 Non Runners: Abavard.

Placepot: £5,428.20 Quadpot: £62.40. Place 5: £1,943.52 Place 5: £1,03.96.

European Cup: Manchester United's manager believes his side will defy history and go on to triumph in Turin

Ferguson rejects the evidence

Football Correspondent

HIS PLAYERS were still in the dressing-room, drained after their Herculean escape from the mastery of Juventus, when Alex Ferguson began fortifying them for the daunting trip to Turin in 12 days' time.

The core of this Manchester United side owe their careers to Ferguson, having been at Old Trafford from the cradle, or plucked from relative obscurity, and his moods and words carry great weight with them.

Thus, as another Old Trafford full bouse was still drifting off into the Salford night, Ferguson was already professing a supernatural belief in his team's ability to progress to the European Champions' Cup

"I know Juventus will feel they are favourites for the second leg but something tells me we're going to win," be said, delivering the words with such serene confidence that one wondered if cinema had taken the right actor from Old Trafford when it lured Eric Cantona to the silver screen.

Ferguson reinforced this belief with opinion presented as fact. He did not think Juventus could not play as well again, nor United as badly.

It sounds plausible enough but the truth is Juventus outplayed United because they were superior in technique and, surprisingly, self-belief. This is what Antonio Conte, wbo scored for the third successive Champions' Cup tie, meant when he said: "Strange things bappen to players in these matches, Some grow, some dis-

appear.' United fought their way back into the match on spirit but Ferguson knows it will be difficult, if not impossible, for United to repeat on an away ground the waves of attacking play which finally broke Juventus on Wednesday night.

In another attempt to lay the ground for the return leg he added: "Juventus can go through with a goalless draw but they can't play for nil-nil, it's not in their nature. They will go out



Manchester United supporters behind the Juventus goal attempt to raise their team to greater efforts in Wednesday's 1-1 draw at Old Trafford

David Ashdown

in Italian football that such a World Cup, only his tendency to statement can be made with a overstep the mark - which straight face but, that said, one can hardly envisage Juventus tearing forward and leaving gaps at the back. Until the final minutes they defended impeccably in Manchester and always did so in numbers.

The wide men gave good protection to their full-backs while Didier Deschamps and Edgar Davids blocked the supply line down the centre.

Dávids was not far hehind

caused Graham Poll to dismiss him during the Netherlands' friendly against Argentina last week - spoiled his impact. At Old Trafford be curbed that aspect of his game without losing the sense of menace which suggests be was always the first to be picked in schoolyard matches.

Zidane, until he tired, was sublime. His ability to find space with a shimmy of his body with the intention of winning." Zinedine Zidane as one of the and pick out a pass with that It is indicative of the change outstanding talents of the radar brain is unmatched in the

modern game. Like so many World Cup players he is now finding form when it matters.

However, United cannot be written off. As Peter Schmeichel, who is set to equal Bill Foulkes' club record of 35 European Cup ties in Turin, said afterwards: "We have always kept going until the end and you're never surprised if we

Davids agreed: "You never feel you bave done enough against English teams. They are very hard to beat and they

But neither do Juventus. who only reached this stage with a late goal of their own in Piraeus, Nor Bayern Munich, who produced another stirring comeback in Kiev. These players may be millionaires but they are not shirkers. Wasted talents like Matt Le Tissier should watch matches like Wednesdays and weep. As

in hard work. United now turn their attention to another titanic home matches and four

Zidane, though far from match

fit, showed, there is no shame

They then have a six-day break before facing Sheffield Wednesday at home. For once their opponents have a more demanding build-up, the weekend before they face Manchester United, Juventus travel to Rome to play Lazio, the Serie A leaders.

History favours the Italians. While Manchester United have never won a competitive match in Italy, Juventus have lost just three times in 53 match. Sunday's FA Cup tie decades of competing in the

In 46 subsequent bome

against Arsenal at Villa Park. European Champions' Cup. The last defeat that counted was a 1-0 semi-final, second-leg reverse to Benfica in 1968. Benfica then lost to Manchester United in the final.

matches Juventus have lost once, to Borussia Dortmund in a group match in 1995. It was irrelevant to Juventus, they had already qualified for the later stages and went on to win the competition. It was the start of three successive final appearances for La Vecchi Sig-

Boksic boosts Lazio

pover nust itho anse

er Hur

Lazio

ALEN BOKSIC came off the substitutes' bench to fire in a 7/th-minute equaliser and earn Lazio a 1-1 draw at Lokomotiv Moscow in their European Cup-Winners' Cup semi-final first leg yesterday.

The Georgian international striker Zaza Dzhanashia, who scored a hat-trick in Lokomotiv's quarter-final victory over Maccabi Haifa, bad put the Russian side ahead in the 61st minute when he rounded the Lazio goalkeeper Luca Marche-giani and finished expertly on

On a difficult, bumpy surface, both sides created good chances, with the Italian Serie A leaders finishing the game strongly after Boksic, their Croatian international forward. had brought the scores level. The Lokomotiv goalkeeper

Ruslan Nigmatullin denied Dejan Stankovic from close range with three minutes remaining, but Lazio will be more than happy with the away draw.

Litmanen ready to leave Ajax

THE FINNISH international midfielder Jari Litmanen is to leave Ajax at the end of the season, the Amsterdam club announced yesterday. He has not yet decided where he will play

The announcement is sure to spark a flurry of inquiries from teams interested in signing Litmanen. His name has previously been linked with a move to Liverpool, but a move to Barcelona, where the former Ajax coach Louis van Gaal is in charge, seems more likely.

Litmanen has played seven time top scorer in European club competitions. He overtook Johan Cruyff last September when a Champions' League penalty against Porto took his tally to 24 goals.

The Euro 2000 organisers have given the Amsterdam Arena two weeks to free up all its seats for sale or lose the right to bost matches during next year's Championship.

The Arena, home to Ajax. can bold up to 51,000, but 6,000 debenture bolders do not want to give up their rights during the three-week tournament cobosted by Belgium and the Netherlands.

'We've spoken with the board of the Arena to let them know [about the deadline]. The loss of these seats would deprive the general public of 30,000 tickets," a Euro 2000 spokesman said yesterday.

Kiev coach Lobanovsky still confident

DYNAMO KIEV fans were heart- BY PAVEL POLITYUK broken on Wednesday evening. but the club's taciturn coach, Valery Lobanovsky, still rates his team's chances despite the 3-3 home draw with Bayern Munich in the first leg of the European Cup semi-final.

With just minutes to go, Dynamo Kiev appeared to be cruising to a comfortable victory but, having twice led by two goals, they squandered the advantage. "We just gave it away in the last few minutes." moaned one young Kiev fan, wrapped in a blue-and-yellow Ukrainian flag.

Bayern, trying to become the first German club to win the league, the domestic Cup and the European Cup in one season, trailed 2-0 in the first half

and 3-1 with 12 minutes re-

But the Germans did not give up and pressed forward with an all-out offensive. First a superb free-kick by Stefan Effenberg made it 3-2, then Carsten Jancker beld off two defenders for a last-minute equaliser, stunning the near

"It's a pity - we let go of the match we had already won." said veteran football columnist Yevgeny Belozerov, of the national sports weekly Komanda. "The Germans were lucky. Our main problem was terrible defensive mistakes

sell-out 80,000 home crowd.

such an experienced coach as Lohanovsky will find something to change it."

The Bayern Munich president, Franz Beckenbauer, was unimpressed by the German performance. "We made a lot of mistakes," be said. "When you offer two goals to your opponents, you can only be lucky to get a draw."

But the Bayern coach, Ottmar Hitzfeld, disagreed. "I think we deserved this result." he said. "I take my bat off to my players. They never gave up... and kept on fighting."

Lobanovsky, who rarely makes any predictions, still rates his team's chance at 50-50. "Rest assured, we'll make

chances as a bit higher, some- adjustments," he said. "We said Effenberg. "We don't want er, Uli Boness, keeps repeating Real Madrid will seek to extend like 55-45. But I'm sure have not just one but a whole to lose a single match. We don't that Bayern have their best tend a four-game winning run range of various tactics for the return match."

Effenberg said be expects another close battle. "I knew it would be tight," he said. "Even at home we will not win 3-0 or 4-0. It will be another close match, but we have a psychological advantage." Bayern are chasing a first

victory in Europe's top club competition since the last of three consecutive triumphs in 1976. They last reached the final in 1987, losing 2-1 to Porto in Vienna, while the Ukrainian champions, winners of two Cup Winners' Cups in 1975 and 1986, are trying to reach their first European Cup final.

"I want to win everything."

know when we will have such great team again. Look at Real. They won the European Cup last year and they're nowhere now."

Recapturing the German crown they lost to Kaiserslautern last May should be merely a formality for Bayern - they are 15 points clear going into tomorrow's home match against Schalke 04 - and they are also bot favourites to retain the German Cup against Werder Bremen in the final on 12 July in Berlin.

"The most important to me is the title," said Effenberg. "It means even more than the European Cup."

The Bayern general manag-

team in over 20 years and says they could be even stronger than the side in his playing days when they landed that tre-

ble of European Cup victories. The last stretch for Bayern promises to be tough. The Brazilian striker Elber and the French defender Bixente Lizarazu, probably the side's two most important players, are nursing serious knee injuries which will keep them out of the game for weeks.

Bayern had won their last eight league matches without conceding a goal before they had to fight hack from two goals down to snatch a 2-2 draw at Borussia Dortmund last weekend.

tend a four-game winning run at Celta Vigo on Sunday, having digested the good news that their Yugoslav striker Predrag Mijatovic has agreed to end the boycott he observed last weekend because of the Nato air strikes, a protest that cost him a \$30,000 (£19,500) fine. The bad news for the Real

Madrid coach, John Toshack, is that he will be without three key defenders because of yellow cards - Roberto Carlos, Fernando Hierro and Ivan Campo.

Real have risen to fourth place in the league but Toshack said he was worried by the team performance last weekend when they had to come from behind twice against Alaves for a 3-2 win.

Tribute at last to Paisley the quiet genius

Anfield honours the winner of three European Cups. By Guy Hodgson

AS IN LIFE, so in death. If you knowledge became apparent had oot known Bob Paisley OBE was the most successful British manager of all time you would not have been arrested by the small, quiet middle-aged man who clung to the the championship six times walls rather than the spotlight. The same could be said of the gates that were opened in his

booour at Anfield yesterday. Many supporters will walk past the Paisley Gateway and time is one of football's big not notice its significance, mysteries. because it is only when you look up and see the three European to the man at the club he Cups on top that the truth dawns. The man himself would have liked it that way: unobtrusive, let your achievements do your talking.

man," Tommy Smith, the former Liverpool captain, said yesterday, "and shy, to tell the truth. It was only when he got to the training pitch that his football

and there was no one better."

The bonours bear Smith out. Paisley won more European Cups (three) than any other British manager, took between 1976 and 1983, the League Cup three times in succession and the Uefa Cup in 1976. How the FA Cup slipped his and Liverpool's grasp in his

served as player, coach and manager for 37 years, but Anfield out that right yesterday, Paisley'a widow, Jessie, officially unlocked the gates, paid "He was an unassuming for by Liverpool's shareholders, for the first time. They stand as a pair with the Bill Shankly Gates on the opposite side of the ground, overlooked by the Kop and by the bronze statue

BOB PAISLEY OBE. Gateway to glorious past: Liverpool's memorial to Bob Paisley So was the lack of a tribute

Liverpool manager.

"He was the opposite of Shanks, chalk and cheese," Smith continued. "Bill was an extrovert and loud while Joe always said if you spoke softly people listen; if you shout they're liable to walk away. He didn't lose his rag very often."

Surprisingly, given his success, Paisley was reluctant to become manager after Shankly retired in July 1974 and had to be persuaded by the club and

of the man be succeeded as his family to take the post at the lieved that the current Chamage of 55. "It's like being given pions' League is devalued. "I the Queen Elizabeth to steer in a Force 10 gale," he said, but there has not been a finer er to win than it is now. To get

belmsman. "He was never boastful but he had great football knowledge. I owe Bob more oers-up, and there were no secthan anyone else in the game. ond chances. If you lost you were There will never be another like

him," Kenny Dalglish, bought by Paisley in 1977, said. Jessie Paisley, 83, said the European Cups were the jewels in her husband's crown and be-

may be putting my foot in it," she said, "but I believe it was hardin you had to win the league, there was no question of the runout, there were no little leagues to give you a second chance." They will love that at Old Traf-

ford. But then the Paisley family were usually good at getting the better of Manchester United.

Rovers look poised for Wembley return

SEVENTEEN YEARS after their previous visit, Forest Green Rovers are on the hrink of a return to Wembley.

The little club from the Gloucestershire village of Nallsworth have come a long way since they beat Rainworth Miners' Welfare to win the FA Vase in 1982. They are now in the Nationwide Conference, and they are also trying to become the first team to win the FA Umbro Trophy as well as the Vase.

In tomorrow's Trophy semifinal first legs Forest Green visit the Ryman League club St Albans City, while Kingstonian entertain Cheltenham Town. "It's the draw we would have chosen," Frank Gregan, the Rovers manager, said, "but that goes for St Albans as well - they would have wanted to avoid Cheltenham and Kingstonian, who are both top Con-

ference sides." Rovers' recent form in the Conference has not been good - they lost 4-0 at Hereford United on Monday and 2-0 at home to Woking two days later - but their performances in the Trophy have been impressive. They have scored 16 goals in NON-LEAGUE NOTEBOOK

five ties and thrashed South-

BY RUPERT METCALF

port, last season's beaten finalists, 4-1 in the quarter-finals, St Albans, who had not been beyond the last 32 of the Tropby prior to this season, have signed Mick Bodley and Derek Payne from Peterborough in time for tomorrow's tie. "St Albans are 180 minutes from Wembley and they obviously need to boost their squad," Barry Fry, the

Posh manager, said. If Cheltenham, the Trophy holders, are to return to Wembley they will have to outwit Kingstonian's Geoff Chapple. a manager who won the Trophy three times in four years with his previous club, Woking. His counterpart at the Conference leaders, Steve Cotterill, said. "The manager I have most respect for at this level is Geoff. and we know that he will make

it a very difficult tie for us." Like Forest Green, Kingstonian have had little time to prepare for their Trophy ties because of a backlog of Conference fixtures - they were playing at Hereford last night. They also visit Cheltenham for a league game next Tuesday prior to the semi-final second leg at Whaddon Road tomorrow week. The other second leg at The Lawn will be staged the following day, Sunday 18 April at 1.30pm, in order to boost the crowd at Forest Green.

At the bottom of the Conference, Farnborough Town will be relegated tomorrow if they lose at Woking and Barrow win at Hednesford. Nuneaton Borough confirmed their place in the Conference next term when a 2-0 victory at Atherstone United last Saturday secured the Dr Martens League title.

In the other Conference feeder leagues, the Ryman League leaders Sutton United will be the favourites for the title if they avoid defeat at second-placed Ayleshury United tomorrow. Sutton are a point ahead with a game in hand. In the UniBond League, second-placed Altrincham will go up even if they finish as runners-up to the current leaders, Worksop Town, whose ground does not meet Conference requirements.

المكذا من الاصا.

Friday 9 April 1999

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Rovers must do N BOKSIC came of the cititutes' bench to the to a 1: draw at Lokombin Cow in their Europe Wingon:

THERE WAS both good news and bad for Blackburn Rovers yesterday in their struggle to stay in the Premiership. The announcement of Kevin Gallacher's return to first-team action was tempered by the news that Matt Jansen is likely to miss the rest of the season.

Jansen

Jansen, the England Under-21 striker, suffered a knee injury in Rovers' 0-0 draw with Middlesbrough on Saturday and a scan has revealed a torn cartilage. The £4m signing from Crystal Palace now faces an operation which should rule him out for the rest of the campaign.

Already this week Kidd has suffered fresh injury fears over the midfielders Billy McKinlay (groin) and Lee Carsley (ankle). He is also without the long-term absentees Garry Flitcroft (knee) and Christian Dailly (thigh). One bonus for the manager is that Gallacher marked his comeback from a calf injury with a hat-trick in Wednesday's 5-1 Pontins

League victory over Preston. Rovers' former manager, Roy Hodgson, could be set for a return to international management with Austria by the end of the week.

The former Switzerland coach is meeting the president of the Austrian Football Federation, Beppo Mauhart, in Prague, where Hodgson is parheipating in a Fifa congress. Hodgson is also believed to be considering offers from a last season.

BY ALAN NIXON

Premiership club, a Spanish Primera Division side and a German Bundesliga club.

Aston Villa have applied to take part in this summer's Intertoto Cup in the hope that it will earn them a place in the Uefa Cup next season. Their decision follows the Uefa ruling that Newcastle United will earn a Uefa Cup place even if they are beaten in this weekend's FA Cup semi-final against Tottenham. Villa would need to finish fourth in the Premiership to qualify automatically for the competition, but the chances of that look slim as they currently trail fourth-placed Leeds

Villa's secretary-director, Steve Stride, said: "It is difficult to see another way of securing European football. But you only have to look at Bologna, this year's semi-finalists, and Bordeaux, who reached the final three years ago, to see that the Intertoto is a positive route into the Uefa Cup."

United by 11 points.

Charlton are rewarding their travelling supporters' loyalty this season by paying for them to travel to their crucial fixture at Everton on 24 April, The Addicks will spend £25,000 taking 2,700 supporters to the game in a repeat of an initiative that saw them take 4,000 fans to Port Vale

Keegan worry over Hungary

KEVIN KEEGAN is concerned media in this country, it might about England playing a not suit Fulham. I don't see why friendly against Hungary as the Premiership clubs move into the final stages of the fight for bonours. The England coach, who is due to lead the national team out against Hungary on 28 April, said: "Tve got my doubts about whether England should be playing a friendly at that time. I have to be honest and that's me wearing my Premiership managers'

"They are all coming to the vital stage of the season where they are playing for massive prizes and trying to win trophies they may never get the

chance to win again and we say well we'll take these four players and don't worry they might come back OK, they might be injured. That's a difficult one." Keegan still will not commit

himself to England full time, but refuses to rule out the possibility of carrying on as manag-

er on a part-time basis. There may be a possibility for it to go on. That might not

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: NY Yankees 4 Oak-land 0: Tampa Bay 8 Baltimore 5; Boston 6 Karsas City 0; Toronto 9 Minnesota 3; Texas 10 Detroit 7; Ceveland 9 Anahelm 1; Seattle 7 Chicago White Sox 3. MATIONAL LEAGUE: Montreal 4 Pitts-

Burgh 3: NY Mers 6 Florida 0; Chicago Cubs 9 Houston 2; Adanta 4 Philadelphia 0; St Louis 4 Milwelec 1; San Diego 2 Colorado 1; Los Angeles 6 Arizona 4; San Francis-co 8 Cincinnad 3.

BASKETBALL

NBA: Boston 108 Washington 97: Char-lotte 106 New York B2: Detroit 99 Adanta 82: Miami 93 Dallas 87: Philadelphia 96

82: Miami 93 Dallas 87; Philadelphia 96 New Jersey 92: Indiana 91 Chicago 74; Mil-

waytinge 99 Geveland 91; Phoenix 90 Min-

nesota 82; Denver B7 Vancouver 84; LA

TODAY'S

NUMBER

6,185

The number of days since

Cal Ripken of baseball's

Baltimore Orioles missed

a game through injury.

Ripken voluntarily ended

his streak of 2,632

games last September. He

pulled out of this week's

Orioles v Tampa Bay

game with a stiff back.

His last game out injured

was on 3 May 1982.

Lakers 104 Sacramento 89.

after one game we have to start making major decisions about the next three years, Euro 2000 and the World Cup I think it is an overreaction, I really do. If I don't think I can do it I won't. I honestly will just walk away."

England appeared consigned to an early exit from the World Youth Championship after losing 1-0 to Cameroon in their Group E round one match in Kano, Nigeria, yesterday.

The English under-20 team, wbo lost 1-0 to the United States in their opening match on Monday and currently lie bottom of their group, were beaten by a 64th-minute goal from Gaspard Komol.

Cameroon top the group with six points, while the United States and Japan were meeting last night.

each group will go through to the second round of the threeweek championship along with the hest two third-placed suit the FA, it might not suit the teams.



S Africa pose cup dilemma

BRITAIN MUST win a home tie against South Africa in September to stay in the Davis Cup world group next year and capitalise on the huge interest generated by the match with the United States last weekend, which went to the fifth set of the fifth and final rubber before the Americans advanced to the

quarter-finals, 3-2. Having avoided the peril yesterday of being drawn to play away on dreaded slow clay courts, Britain have until 30 April to decide where to stage the qualifying round match with South Africa, who tradi- Piet Norval. tionally are undaunted by the

BY JOHN ROBERTS

speed and low bounce of grass, Wayne Ferreira, South Africa's No 1, won the Stella Artois title at London's Queen's Club in 1992, and was the runner-up to Germany's Michael Stich there in 1993. Ferreira was a Wimbledon singles quarterfinalist in 1994, when he also reached the doubles semifinals, partnering Stich, having been eliminated at the same stage in 1991 with a compatriot,

Ranked in the world's top 50 second round at Wimbledon in playing the South Africa tie because of apartheid.

for the past eight years. Fer- last year, was defeated in the reira is capable of competing on any surface, indoors or outdoors. The South Africans qualified for the promotion/relegation play-off against Britain by defeating Belarus, 4-1, in Cape Town last weekend on a medium-pace outdoor concrete

Ferreira won his two singles matches against Belarus in the final of Euro/African zone Group 1. David Nainkin, the South African No 2, who lost to

court similar to those used for

the United States Open in New

opening rubber. David Adams and John-Laffnie De Jager won the doubles. Marcos Ondruska, Grant Stafford, Ellis Ferreira and Piet Norval may be contenders for the tie in Britain on 24 to 26 September.

Britain returned to the world group after defeating India in the qualifying round on grass at Nottingham at the end of September last year.

David Lloyd, Britain's captain, in consultation with his

on grass, from the weather, or the visiting team. The match against the

United States at Birmingham's National Indoor Arena was watched over the three days by a total of 30,000 roaring, flagwaving spectators, who were thrilled by the high quality tennis played on a medium-pace hard court laid on wood.

South Africa are the only nation to have won the Davis Cup by default, In 1974, the only time they reached the final, leading players, Tim Henman their opponents, India, were lied both times on the clay and Greg Rusedski, will have to refused permission to particl- surface to win the next four Britain's Tim Henman in the decide whether there is a risk pate by the Indian government games and regain control of the

Chang's trials become harder

HENDRIK DREEKMAN extended the tribulations of the triple champion Michael Chang yesterday the German rallying to beat the No 8 seed and eliminate him from the Salem Open in Hong Kong. The American, who has slumped to 40th in the weekly ATP Tour rankings, fell to Dreekman 3-6, 7-5, 6-4.

"It is getting harder to win. I'm not playing the big points well and that makes a huge difference," Chang, a former winner of the French Open, said.

His compatriot Andre Agassi, a wild-card entry, cootinued his rehabilitation as he sped to a 6-2, 6-3 victory over Oliver Gross. "The wild card is doing its job." said Agassi, who will meet Nicolas kiefer, of

Germany, in the quarter-finals. Boris Becker showed he is still a force as he defeated Wayne Ferreira 6-4, 7-6 to set up a meeting with Italy's Laurence Tieleman in the next round. The German, semiretired from the ATP Tour, has played in only 11 Tour events in 1998. The Hong Kong tournament is his third in 1999, but he said his love of playing in front of a crowd kept his desire strong. "1 still get a huzz from playing in front of a crowd, I'm a professional and they come to watch me. This is what mohvates me and keeps me going,

He hardly needed any outside persuasion to defeat the South African, Becker broke the sixth seed in the fifth game to win the first set and then outserved and outvolleyed Ferreira in the second-set tie-break.

Jennifer Capriati squandered opportunities to give her sagging career a hoost on Wednesday night against Anna Kournikova at the Bausch & Lomh Championships, in Amelia Island, Florida.

Kournikova, the ninth seed rallied from a break down in both sets and capitalised on the 23-year-old Floridian's unforced errors on critical points to win 6-3, 6-3.

The Russian, who now faces the top-seeded Lindsay Davenport, trailed 3-2 in the first set and 2-0 in the second, hut ralmatch.

Whitham for Yamaha

JAMIE WHITHAM, the hard-ridformer team-mate Niall

Mackenzie as part of the newly branded Virgin Yamaha squad.

The top two teams from

BOWLS

SREENALLS SPRING WATERLOO
(Blackpool) Second round: L Stewart
(Staybridge) br P Marriott (Choriey) 21-12:
A Proctor (Stockport) br J Mullen (Sale) 2112: R Baschalde (Hessien) br P Faulconbridge
(Thornton) 21-13: B Taylor (Warrington) bt
A Banks (Tyldesley) 21-12: J Tattersall
(Rochdale) bt K Brooks (Tasley) 21-8: R Stantord (Sale) bc J Heathcore (Leight) 21-17: P
Strutt (Diggle) bt O Morrison (Warrington)
21-16; M Winnington (Hertford) bt M Holden (Rochdale) 21-12: V O'Donnell (Blackburn) bt P Craig (Rochdale) 21-16: M
Chapman (Btackburn) bt O Thorpe (Warington) 21-13: 5 Frith (Weaverham) bt A
Taylor (Wiggn) 21-12: R Moss (Orneley) bi
A Lewis (Crosby) 21-10.

CYCLING

GHERT-WEVELGEM RACE (210km): 1 T Steels (Bel) Mapel 5hr 15min (Osec, 2 2 Spruch (Pol) Lampre-Dalkin; 3 T Hoffman (Neth) TVM both same time

FOOTBALL

7.30 unless stated

NATIONWIDE POOTBALL LEAGUE SECOND DIVISION Gillingham v Bournemouth (7.45)

THERD DIVISION

UNIBOND LEAGUE Premier Division:

Winsford v Chorley.

HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF

RRELANIO Premier Division: St Patrick's Ath v Silgo Rovers (7.45): Shamrock Rovers v UCD (7.45): Bray Wanderers v

CRICKET

COCA-COLA CUP (One day, 12.0): Sharjah, UAE: England v India. FIRST-CLASS MATCHES (Second day

of three, 11.30): Fenner's: Cambridge University v Lancashire. The Parks: Oxford University v Worcestershire.

RUGBY LEAGUE

LIB SPORTS SUPER LEAGUE London v St Helens (7,30)

Swansea v Shrewsbury (7.45)

Waterford (7.45).

BOWLS

ing maverick from Yorkshire, may be about to return to British Superbikes in a mouthwatering combination with his

Having failed to make enough of an impression on World Superbikes on board a temperamental Suzuki to secure gainful employment in the senior series this season, the 32-year-old ex-works rider's only prospect of a ride is this weekend's world endurance race at Le Mans, where he will partner Terry Rymer on a

Suzuki. However, he was vesterday expected to meet with Yamaha after the team's manager. Rob MOTORCYCLING

BY ANDREW MARTIN

McElnea, suggested that a place may be available for him this season. Whitham, one of Britain's

most popular riders, who dominated British Superbikes alongside Mackenzie, the series' triple champion, in 1996, says the prospect of a regular. competitive ride would be too tempting to resist. "I would be a fool not to look

at any offer [Yamaha] might come up with and to be honest, it is probably the only team 1'd ride for in Britain," he said. "One of the main reasons 1 decided not to come back to

chance of a WSB ride had gone was that it happened so late that all the plumb seats in the top teams had gone. But a Virgin Yamaha is a plumh seat." A rival for the seat oo the

shiny new scarlet R7 is Scott Smart, Britain's lone 500cc GP rider last season. He has since parted with the Millar squad and has also talked to Yamaha about joining its British outfit.

British interest in this weekend's 24-hour endurance race is not confined to Whitham and Rymer. Brian Morrison, three times a winner, will partner fellow Scot Mackenzie on a Yahama while British Superbikes riders Chris Walker and Steve Hislop will turn out in the colours of Kawasaki France Britain this year after the on a works ZX-7RR.

IF ANTHONY HAMILTON goes on to win his first ranking title in Plymouth on Sunday, the Nottingham professional will certainly have earned his trophy and the £60,000 first prize.

The world No 11 reached the quarter-finals of the British Open last night with his third successive deciding-frame victory. He completed his hattrick of 5-4 wins by knocking out hreak of 134 had taken him into this season's triple champion a 2-0 lead hefore Williams Mark Williams, following from his excellent victories over two time. Hamilton won the next of the game's hrightest young two to lead 4-2 hut lost frames talents. Marco Fu from Hong seven and eight, including the Kong and the 1998 Welsh Open

champion. Paul Hunter. However, Hamilton has an down in the decider to beat the potting the blue.

BAUSCH & LOMB WOMEN'S OPEN [Amelia Island, Fla] Singles, secondround: L Davenport (US) bt T Pisnik (Sloven) 7-5 6-3; S Jeyaseelan (Can) bt V Milliams (US) 6-4 7-6; P Schnyder (Swilt) bt J Steck (5A) 6-7 6-1; I Gornotharegui (Arg) bt I Majoli (Croa) 3-6 6-4 6-2; F Zuluaga (Col) bt L Raymond (US) 6-2 5-7 6-0; M Pierce (Fr) bt C Cristea (Rom) 6-0 6-0; A Fusal (Fr) bt A Smashnova (Isl 3-6 6-4 6-4; A Coetzel (SA) bt L Osreich (US) 6-3 6-3; A kournikova (Rus) bt J Capriati (US) 6-3

6-3.

HONG KONG MEN'S OPEN Singles, second round: B Becker (Ger) bt W Fertera (SA) 6-4 7-6; B Karbacher (Ger) bt B Steven (NZ) 6-4 6-0. J Bjorkman (Swe) bt G Motomura (Japan) 6-2 6-4; L Tieleman (It) bt C Mamul (US) 6-3 6-4; N Klefer (Ger) bt P Srichaphan (Thai) 6-1 6-4.

SNOOKER

Hamilton earns his wins

Irish, Welsh and Thai Open champion Williams, he now meets the six times world champion, Stephen Hendry. "I should have won 5-3 hut I

twitched in the eighth frame." Hamilton said. "So I was pleased to make a 50 hreak in the last." Earlier, Hamilton's squared the match by halfseventh to a hreak of 128.

In the decider Williams made 36, only to miss a hlack. even tougher challenge to Hamilton's 59 proved decisive, come. Having come from 36-0 and he finally won the match by

Hendry, last year's runnerup, produced his best snooker when he needed it most. The world No 2 trailed the Essex left hander Mark King 4-2 hut allowed him only 15 points in the closing three frames.

Hendry began his comeback with a break of exactly 100, made 41 in the eighth and then sealed victory with a 137 clearance in the decider. "Coming back from 3-1 and

4-2 down gives you a lot of satisfaction," Hendry said. "I'm playing better than I was earlier in the season and winning breeds confidence.

"This win proves I am still able to win under pressure." the Scot added, "and I'm not giving games up as 1 might have done B few months ago."

EUROPEAN CUP-MINNERS CUP SEMI-FINAL FIRST LEG

GROUP E
Cameroon [0]1 England [0] .
Cooper og 64 5.000

Ford Urd 3 League Cop semi-final second legs Borcham Wood 1 Maldenhead 0 jogg 4-7). Der Nartens League Middland Divisions Paget Rangers 2 Weston-super-More 2: Solthuil Borough 1 Stourbridge 1: Sutton Coldfield 1 Shepshed Dynamo 0. Jennison Misseer League Cop Semi-final second legs Moneyfields 0 Lymington & New Milton 3 Lymington & New Milton 1 Shindon 2: Newsastie Blue Star 3 Morphia (1 Shindon 2: Newsastie Blue Star 3 Morphia) League Priss Division: Stewarts & Lloyds Corby 4 Ford Sports 0. Press & Journal Highman League Romes I Budde Thiste 1. Automissurface Combination Pires Division: Stewarts & Lloyds Corby 4 Ford Sports 0. Press & Journal Highman 0, Bleenford 0 Milwoll 0; Bournemouth 1 Portsmouth 0: Litton 4 Objet 0; Avsend 5 Crystal Palace 0; Mycombe 1 Northampton 1, Cotchester 1 Norvich 1; Wilmbeldon 3 Swindon 0, Southampton 1 Reading 2, West ton 1, Colchester 1 Norwich 1: Wilmbledon 3 Swindon 0, Soutampton 1 Reading 2, West Ham 0 Ipswich 4. Poetins League Premier Division: Blacktum 5 Preston 1: Leeds 3 As-ton Villa 4 First Divisions: Sheffield Welnis Villa 4 First Divisions: Sheffield Welnisons:

FIRST-CLASS MATCHES

Oxford University w Worcs THE PARKS: Worcestershire are 284 for 6 in their first lanings against Oxford

bat: A Sheriyar, C G Liption, J M de la Pena. Bowling: Kino 21-3-74-1; Earlie 15-4-35-0: Mather 19-5-55-2; Hinks 26-10-61-2; Ful-

FOOTBALL ICE HOCKEY

SPORTING DIGEST

Alex Totten, the Falkirk manager, has signed a new Three-year contract. Totten has been at the club since December 1996 during which time they have reached The final of the Scottish Cup and won the Challenge Cup. Nationwide have named Steve Brad-dock of Arsenal as the Premier League groundsman of the year award for the 1993-99 season. Mick Moore of Oxford United won the First Division award. Bryan Horner of York and Ian Darler of Cambridge United collected the awards for the Second and Third Di-

risions respectively. NATIONB/IDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE Pirst Division: Re-arranged fluture: Sat 24 April: Queen's Park Rangers v Brad-ford City (from 26 April).

TODAY'S FIXTURES

RUGBY UNION A INTERNATIONALS

CHELTENHAM AND GLOUCESTER Gloucester v Bedford (7.45) (at Northamp

BASKETBALL
BUDGHEISER CHAMPIONSHIP Playoffs first leg: Newcastle Eagles v London
Towers (7 30). OTHER SPORTS
RALLYENG Grante City Raily (at Aberdeen).
SNOOKER: British Open (at Phymouth).
TENNIS: National Championships (16 and NHL: Montreal 2 Carolina 0: St Louis 4 Washington 2: Detroit 6 Vancouver 1 Boston 5 Flonda 2: Toronto 4 Ortawa 2. Dallas 5 Anaherm 1: Colorisco 4 Nashville 1: Edmonton 4 Calgary 2. WORLD CHAMPIDNSHIP Pool 8

(Odense, Den): Great Brirain 2 Slove-OLYMPIC GAMES Peking has formally bid for the 2008 Olympic Games after the mayor Liu Of and Wu Shaozu, the Chinese

Olympic Committee president, made

the official presentation to Juan Antonio Samaranch, the president of

the International Olympic Committee.

in Lausanne yesterday. RUGBY LEAGUE WEDNESDAY'S LATE RESULT: JJB Sports Super League: Huddersfield (8) 14, Castleford (20) 36, Huddersfield: Tries Lenihan, Wright, Goals Weston 2, Goulding, Castleford: Tries Eagai 2, Mal-oney 2, Rogers 2, Vowles, Goals (iii 4, (3,882)

RUGBY UNION WEDNESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Anglo-Welsh Friendly: Cardil! 42 Sale 5 Welsh Nacional League First Division: Cross Reys 12 Bonymaen 35 Interna-tional March: Scottish Schools 8 English

SAILING SAILING
WOLVO RYA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS (Grafham Water, Cambs)
Fourth day: 420 men (after eight
races, one discard): 1 R Watson and
M Ellis 29prs: 2 N Baker and J Clifton
34; 3 I Maitin and C Martin 41, 4 P
Campbell James and T Hutchinson 44, 5
B Field and J Holmes 45, 6 T Paul and
5 Rouse 55 420 women (after eight
races, one discard): 1 N Bancs and J
Marshall 94prs: 2 C Bassadone and H
Mayhew 97; 3 H Brown and J Scort 110.
4 K Greenland and k Sanders 118, 5 V
Rawlinson and E Rawlinson 126 6 G F
Syles and R Geyman 131 Laser (after

seven races, one discard[: 1 M Howard 18pts, 2 A Commander 20, 3 D Havey 22 4 C Britcle 24; 5 B Phodes 25; 6 A Wolsh 32, Laser Radial men (after seven races, one discard]: 1 T Huise 20pts, 2 M McGovern 24 3 L Chap-man 32, 4 1 5mtn 33; 5 P Gillhims 35, 6 G Pape 35 Laser Radial women [after seven races, one discard]: 1 B Holt 114pts; 2 K Archer 149, 3 N Lloyd 250; 4 J Kneale 262; 5 H Shaw 267, 6 L Driscoll 294.

SNOOKER S N O O K E R

BRITISH OPEN (Plymouth) Second round: N Walker [Eng) bt A Dames [Mail) 5-2: P Ebdon (Eng) bt M Gray [Eng] 5-4: G Willamson (Eng) bt M Gray [Eng] 5-4: J Parrott (Eng) bt J White [Eng] 5-4. S Hendly (Sco) bt G Dott (Sco) 5-2. A Hamiton [Eng] bt P Hunter [Eng] 5-4. J Mickie [Eng] bt M Campbell (Sco) 5-2 Third round: S Hendry (Sco) bt M King (Eng] 5-4: A Hamiton (Eng) of M Williams (Wal) 5-4. J Higgins (Sco) bt M Holt (Engl 5-1; F O'Brien (Itil) bear G Williamson [Eng] 5-2.

SPEEDWAY WEDNESDAY'S LATE RESULT: Craven Shield: Hull 44 Outord 46, King's Lynn 43 Wolvernampton 47 Poole 57 East-bourne 34

SWIMMING lan Wilson. The City of Leeds swimmet fourth in the 1500 metres freestyle at the World Short Course Championships in Hong Kong on Sunday, is retiring after a career span-

TENNIS ESTORIL OPEN JLIsben) Mea's singles, second round; M Rios J(hiej bt A Poitas (5p) 5-3 6-3. T Martin 105) br N Marques (Por) 7-5 6-3. G Kuerten (Braj bi J Novak (Cz Rep) 6-3 6-4. F Meligeni (Bia) bt H Arazi (Mor) 6-2 6-2. Women's (Bia) bt H Arazi (Mor) 6-2 6-2. Wome singles, second round: K Siebornk (S isingles, second round: K Sreburnk (Slovak) hr J Abe (Ger) 5-7 6-4 6-2 C Torrens (Sp) br S Pirkowshi (Fr) 6-4 6-1, 5 Talan (Coa) br L Cervanova (Slovak) 6-3 6-2 L Bacheva (Bul) bt E Wagner (Ger) 7-5 6-3

N Klefer (Gér) bt P Srichaphan (Thai) 6-1
6-4.

INDIAN OPEN (Madras) Singles.

first round; C Moya (Sp) bt V Voltchkov
(Bela) 4-6 6-3 6-3; K Nucera (Slovak) bt
M Kohlmann (Ger) 7-5 6-1; S Sargsian
(Arm) bt T Johansson (Swe) 6-4 3-0 ret;
W Black (Zim) bt P Goldstein (US) 7-6
6-1, L Burgsmuller (Ger) bt S Schalken
(Neth) 4-6 6-3 6-1, B Black (Zim) bt G
Carràz (Fr) 6-1 6-3.

GIROBANK TOUR (Wimbledon)
Men's singles, second round; R Matheson (W Sco) bt S Amey (Dertyshire) 6-2
6-4, W Herbeit (Middy) bt R Hanger
(Dorser) 6-3 6-2; P Hand (Bertshire) bt
1 Aukland (Norfolk) 6-7 6-1 6-3.

Women's singles, second round; J
Lutiova (Rus) bt K Thomas IS Wal) 6-0
6-3, L Herbeit (Herts) bt M Gantman
(US) 7-5 6-2; N Payne IN Sco) bt H Parker (Berks) 6-1 6-2; J Dewson (Susses)
bt L Reilly [E Sco) 7-5 6-1, L Parkins
[Lutinan & Cleveland) bt A Napler (Surrey) 4-6 6-4 6-0; K Ellion (Hertlordshire)
bt C (Jdofa [Nigeria] 6-4 7-3; K WarneHolland (Dorset) bt J Osman (Susses) 6-4
6-3.

16 AND UNDER NATIONAL CHAM-16 AND UNDER NATIONAL CHAM-PIONSHIPS (Telford) Boys' singles, semi-finals: B Riby (Yorks) bt B Archer-Clowes (War wicks) 6-2 6-3 M Smith (Cheshire) br A Banks (Yorks) 7-6 6-1. Girls' singles, semi-finals: J Smith (Surrey) bt Balracha (Sco) 5-7 7-5 6-4, K Vymecal (Surrey) bt J O'Oonoghue (Lancs) 6-4 6-2.

FOOTBALL RESULTS .

Lok Moscow [0] ...1 Lazlo [0] Ozhanashia 61 Boksic 77 20,000 FIFA WORLD YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP

5.000
[ot hano, Nigeria]
Other des: Group D (Enugu): Uruguay 1
South Korea O, Group F (Calabar): Zambla 0 Spain 0

South Rotest O, Group P (Casaboar); 2011bla D Soaln 0

WEDNESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: European
Cap seed-Fasals first log: Dymno Nev 3 Boyern Mumich 3: Manchester Utd 1 Juvenus 1

Plat World Vooth Chanspionship (Rigeria):
Group A (Lagaes): Nigeria 2 Germany 0:
Paragusy 3 Costa Rica 1. Group B (Kaduma):
Gnaria 1 Argendina 0, Crosta 5 Kazalhistan
1. Group C (Basdan): Saudi Arabia 0 Republic
of Ireland 2, Australia 1 Medico 3 Nistionwilde Conference: Forest Green 0 Wicking
2 Endsteigh Challenge Trophy semi-final
first log: Formboroup: 2 Cheberham 0. UmBond Langue Premier Division: Alutincham
1 Leigh 0: Bistop Auckland 3 Stalphridge
Cette: 3: Guiseley 3 Frictiey 0: First Division: Giest Harwood 2 Farsley 0; Huchnall
0 Witton 1: Maticok 2 Withtey Bay 3 Ry-0 Witton 1: Matlock 2 Writtley Bay 3 Ry-man League First Dhrision: Remford 0 Wealdstone 4. Second Division: Banstead 1 Hungerford 1. Third Dhrision: Southall 0

Division: Discount's Fresco in Lectus 2 No. No. Villa 4 First Division: Sheffield Wednes-day 1 Middlesbrough 0. Second Division: Scarborough 3 Wiresham 1; Shrewsbury 3 Notts County 0: Lincoln 2 York 1: Blackpool 1 Sheffield Und 2. Third Division: Bury 0 1 Shefffeld Und 2. Hand Dwissloss: Bury 0 Carfisle O; Chester field 1 Hull 1; Rochdale 2 Darlington 1; Walsali 2 Halifar 1; Wigan 6 Chester 0. Dutch Leaguer Fortuna Sittard 1 (Hamming 30) Willem II Tilburg 2 (Galasek 61, Abdellaoui 68).

CRICKET SCOREBOARDS

Extras (b6 lb7 nb4)261 Total (for 7, 98 overs)261 Pall: 1-32 2-128 3-151 4-187 5-218 6-238 7 551

7-251.
Tis batz J P Lowe, J S Ross.
Benefing: Chapple 21-7-38-0, Smethurst 173-41-2, Waterson 19-8-41-2, Green 12-4-200; Schofied 25-5-89-2; Childro 4-1-19-1,
Umpires: D R Shepherd and M R Benson.

ton 1-1-0-0, Bryne 15-1-52-1, Umpires: P Willey and P Adams

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THE SECOND STREET



WALES' POLYGLOT PROP P24 • GRAND NATIONAL SWEEPSTAKE KIT P26

The Masters: Fairways to Scot's liking as opening 70 leaves him one shot off early leaders Love and Chamblee

Montgomerie's smooth start

COLIN MONTGOMERIE got the BY ANDY FARRELL start he wanted in the 63rd US Masters with a two-under-par round of 70. As soon as he saw the strips of rough, or the "second cut" as they quaintly call it here at Augusta National, lining the fairways, the Scot's mood improved.

In the past, Montgomerie has not felt comfortable on a course that does not play to his strength - being able to drive the ball on to the sort of pencil-line fairways that appear at the US Open. Although the rough is nowhere near enough to lose a caddie in, as at other venues, it is just enough, given the hard and fast greens, to put more of a premium on driving.

The fairways mean more than they did hefore," said Montgomerie, whose best result was eighth last year. "I am happy with a 70. It is exactly the start I wanted. I was more confident than in past years."

Montgomerie had the advantage of an early tee time hut even by the time he finished at lunchtime, the day was getting hot and the greens were drying out fast. Gone was the garden party atmosphere of the practice days, although Montgomerie enjoyed a joke or two with Steve Jones, one of his playing partners, whose caddie is sharing a room with Monty's.

Montgomerie's dropped shot came at the parthree sixth, where he took three putts from the lower tier He dealt himself an eight-footer for par, which he missed on the right, but at least the ball did not come back to his feet as happened with Jones.

Out in 37, Monty then came 10th from 10 feet, took two putts on the 13th for a birdie four and then hit his tee shot The only two fairways he missed were at the 17th and 18th, hut even so, at the last his chip from beside the green

lipped out for another birdie. This course is a great challenge." the Scot added. "The pin placements are very difficult. As soon as you relax, you can drop a shot. I only made one bad mistake, hut any time you can say that here is good.

The winner is going to be the one who makes the fewest mis-

ified by winning his first tournament. Vancouver Open last year, and Davis Love. The American Ryder Cup player has enjoyed a low-key huild up to the event thanks to the concentration on David Duval and Tiger Woods. While Duval was a late starter, Woods could not have made a more erratic beginning

Ernie Els started with a 71, as did Sandy Lyle, who has only played four times this season,

from eight feet and the seventh from 10 feet before dropping his

I have not played much this year, and none at all in the last three weeks, but I have tried to make use of that time by practising," Lyle said. "This is the first time in years I have had that much time off and it home in 33. He birdied the has done me a lot of good. I came out fresh and on the first tee I felt totally in control. Coming back here always gets

takes and not the most

The early leaders on 69 were Brandel Chamblee, who qual-

with only three pars in an outward 38 that included a triplebogey eight at the eighth.

missing the cut twice. Having lost his US Tour card, the 41year-old Scot is only eligible to play in regular events on sponsors' invitations. However, he has a lifetime exemption to the Masters and a birdie at the last, with a five-iron to six feet although not from the fairway hunker, was a small reminder of his victory at Augusta in

Lyle's wife, Jolande, almost returned to their US base in Ponte Vedra Beach in Florida on Monday after their two small children were involved in a car accident. The car, driven by their nanny, was written off but there were no injuries. "It was not a high-speed crash and they are all fine," Lyle said. "Typical that it should happen the first time we are both away

only other shot at the 12th.

birdies.

in Augusta

In a steady round, Lyle bogeyed the short fourth, but immediately birdied the fifth

Colin Montgomerie gets in the swing with his second shot on the second hole at Augusta National yesterday on his way to compiling an opening-round 70

but the neighbours have been Paul Runyan, stole the show at Jones had anything to do with very supportive."

One tradition at Augusta has not changed. The 63rd USPGA winner, scored a nine-Masters officially got under over 36, some 14 shots behind tant it has become now." way when the three honorary starters teed off at the first. Gene Sarazen, at the age of 97, led the way, managing to find the bottom of the hill, but Byron Nelson, 87, topped his drive 40 yards. Sam Snead, the 86-yearold three-times winner, hit the best drive, into the new rough on the right, just short of the hunker.

Another oldie, 90-year-old

Wednesday's par-three tournament. Runyan, a double the winner, Joe Durant. "My score was terrible," he said. "I was amazed that so many people in the crowd recognised me. I thought I was too old for

Runyan is one of the few survivors from the first Masters in 1934, when he finished third. "I remember that it was a very important event for us," Runyan said. "Anything that Bobby bogeys.

CLIVE WOODWARD acted more

in hope than expectation when

his England side for this Sun-

Wales at Wembley and, as the

that hope expired yesterday.

over France. Barrie-Jon Mather of Sale, via Castleford and

Wigan, will win his first cap in

midfield, just as Steve Hanley

of Sale, via Aspatria and the

Whitehaven rugby league acad-emy, will win his first cap on the

wing. Shades of last summer in

Woodward might have per-

formed any number of selecto-

rial somersaults in an attempt

to minimise the effect of Gus-

cott's absence. He might, for in-

stance, have pulled Hanley into

midfield and given Tony Un-

the southern hemisphere.

was important the first time. Of course, nobody at that time would understand how impor-

victories of Arnold Palmer, four of them in seven years between 1958 and 1964. When Palmer, 69, teed off yesterday if was for the 45th consecutive appearance at the Masters, setting a record for the tournament. The fates, however, were no respecter of history and Palmer opened with back-to-back double-

Pate, B Estes, S Pate, S Lyle (GB), E C Stadler, J Daly, B Glasson R Mediate. T Lehman O Browne, G Hjertstedt (Swe), R Floyd

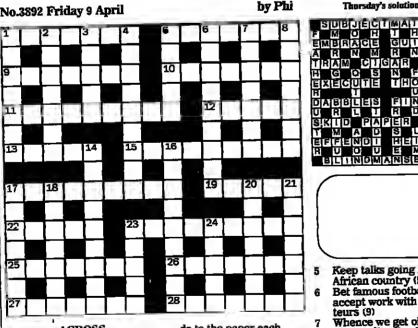
5 Hoch, C Pavin, C Parry (Aus)

SECOND ROUND TEE-OFF TIMES US unless stated, all times BST

1315 G Player [SA], "I brimelman (SA), S
Stricker, 1326 B Crenshaw, "T McGright, L
Roberts, 13375 Ballesteros (Sp.), H Sutton,
B Mayfair, 1348 J Maggert, V Singh (Fil), P
Stewart, 1359 N Fatio (Eng), B Watts, J Durant, 1410 F Zoeller, M Ozaki (Japan), F Funk,
1421 A Palmer, "J Miller, W Wood, 1432 B
Langer (Ger), M Cakaweochia, D Clarke (N Ire).

TV Times: BBC2: 2100-2230.

THE FRIDAY CROSSWORD



ACROSS No longer up and about bound to accept a hit of Middle Eastern region 1

eft half destroyed in Old English money - crikey! presented in US bills (7) Weapon that English used 11 A shade wise and nexperienced? (4.5) 12 Muslim leader always

enthralling me (5) 13 Yoga position displayed by a great many people on the same side? (5) 15 Pressing this - leads to piano-forte being Animal's unusual aroma including berb (9)

19 Newspaperman accepting honour for what one must

m

Li

da wa

tra

night? (5)
2 This is upset with the first sign of glaucoma (5)
3 No longer takes control in flight? (5,4)

25 Lake dispersed with many years' this? (7) 26 It prevents a decline in Rebuilt ark to fit in suitable animal (7) 28 Flat proof of deity's mortality (7)

A lot of bother involved in actual failure to jump (7) Most of article should show some idea (7) Regretting devastation? "Spread" is reinterpreted 24 by learner - as this? (9)

Keep talks going in African country (5) Bet famous footballer will accept work with ama-

Whence we get oil? There's litre in yield, we hear (7) Absorb new lather with a swiri (7) Half of LP (and one song in particular) is to provide diversion (9) 16 A runner, pal, is part of a plant (6-3)

17 Biblical character - nautical man pursued by Herod's daughter, mostly (7) 18 Tm overturning jar? Move to another place (7) Sluggish movement of liquid in tavern going up in this? (5-2) 21 A contribution to beach noise in NZ city (7)

Little in the way of sugary stuff (5) South Africa contains honourable African people (5)

DPublished by Independent Newspapers (UK) Limited, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 50L, and printed at Mirror Back issues available from Historic Newspapers, 01988 Colour Print, St Albans Road, Watford

Registered as a newspaper with the Post Office

captain broke the news to the national coach, Craig Brown,

Mather steps up for England RUGBY UNION

BY CHRIS HEWETT he named Jeremy Guscott in more caps than the current day's Grand Slam match with threequarter line combined, a sentimental gallop in the twilight coach half-expected it would, of his career. He might have brought Matt Perry up from full-The Bath centre was forced to finally give best to the hamback or dragged Nick Beal off the bench or moved Mike Catt string injury that had kept him into the centre and sent for anidle since last month's victory

other outside-half: Alex King, perhaps, or even Rob Andrew. But the coach has stuck to his guns and kept it simple. "I've seen a lot of Barrie-Jon," said Woodward yesterday, describing his latest rookie as "a specialist centre and a very physical player". If Mather turns out to be a hundredth as good as the legend from whom he takes his Christian name the whole of England will breath a mighty sigh of relief on Sunday evening. The Welsh, on the other hand, would probably

find it rather harder to stomach.



Mather: Wembley debut "I've played at Wembley in eague, both with Wigan and England, and I hope my past experience helps to reduce the nerves," said Mather, who switched codes last September after a successful career under 13-man rules. "I'd played union at England Schools level and came back with the aim of

been left out of the last two games and that worries me slightly. I've found the rucking and mauling side of union quite difficult to adjust to, but the hardest part is reading the game." He will have to read it like a

book on Sunday; Wales may not boast the hest hall-winning pack in the world, but they are particularly strong at centre, where Scott Gibbs and Mark Taylor run straight and hard and tend to make an unholy mess of the most experienced defences. Indeed, it is not difficult to imagine Gibbs licking his lips at the prospect of eyeballing an English combination consisting of an inexperienced, if brilliant, teenager and a rugby league warhorse still finding his feet in a game that ultimately defeated the likes of Henry Paul.

Predictably Lawrence Dallaglio, the England captain,

breaking into the Sale first team. went into bat on behalf of his I managed that all right, but I've Guscott-less side yesterday. "To lose a player of Jerry's skill, character and experience is always a hlow and the newer. players would have benefited from having him there alongside them on a big occasion like this," he admitted. "But I don't. feel anxious and I don't think we are vulnerable. Clive has made bold, decisive changes and while we all respect Wales, there is an inner steel about this

England team." Reassuring words from a reassuring figure. Dallaglio's comments could not erase the rather negative impact of one of Mather's little revelations, however. Eight years ago the newcomer played alongside Richard Hill and Matt Dawson, now two of Woodward's more seasoned international hands in a useful-looking England Schools outfit. Ominously, they lost their Grand Slam match...

Scots' boos make McAllister bow out

GARY McALLISTER has retired from international football, citing the churlish booing of him by Scotland fans during the Republic last week as the rea-

ning 57 caps for his country. "Last week's result against the Czech Republic was a crescendo of a night which had a scapegoat. a major bearing on my decision," the 34-year-old midfield-

The Scotland and Coventry

BY WYN GRIFFITHS

2-1 defeat hy the Czech after taking a week to consider his decision. McAllister has son for the decision after win-decided to quit now after a decade in the Scotland side and concentrate on his club football rather than continue as

FOOTBALL

The midfield playmaker was upset at the response to his comeback after missing out almost a year - including the World Cup finals - with a serious knee injury. His initial response

was to retire after the Czech match, but he chose to take a few days to think over his future. A section of the Scotland fans bave not forgiven him for missing a penalty against England in Euro 96, while some critics have also said he should be dropped.

"I am extremely disappointed because I know I am still good enough to play at international level and contribute something to the Scotland side," he said. "But there comes a point when that type of pressure from a certain section who are looking for me not

fans or in the media, becomes too much.

"It has been a difficult decision to make because it's every player's dream to play for his country and I came into international football relatively late in my career. To give up before my time is very disappointing indeed."

The Professional Footballers' Association urged McAllister to reconsider. Its deputy chief executive, Brendon Batson, says that he must continue if he feels he has some-

to do well, whether that be the thing to give. "Obviously this is not a knee-jerk reaction. He has probably thought long and hard

about it," Batson said, "But if he feels he still has something to offer on the international stage then he shouldn't let a small section of the crowd sway him from what

he is - a very good footballer. "It is really sad that a player feels he has to retire prematurely for this reason. Gary has been a very good international player and has given excellent

service to Scotland" More football, pages 28-29

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FRIDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • PLUS THE INFORMATION DAILY



BY ROBERT CHALMERS

Walk this way

For the price of a cappuccino, you can celebrate the Millennium by walking on the surface of the Sea of Galilee, just as Jesus did almost 2000 years ago. The idea was conceived in a vision on the road to Tel Aviv by an Israeli showbiz lawyer and former tank commander. Safety net and lifeguards will be provided

"tourist": he prefers to describe his future es clients as pilgrims.

ike many great visions before it, Ron's came

to him on the road. "It

hit me like lightning."

he told me. "I was dri-

ving from Jerusalem

to Tel Aviv. It was

night. I was alone in

the car and suddenly

I had it. Without any warning, it was there." And, he added: "It has been there

ever since." We were sitting in the lounge

of the Sheraton Hotel in Tel Aviv. Ron Major,

a showbusiness lawyer, glanced round the bar, "At first," he said. "I was worried

to tell anybody about it in case they

thought I was a lunatic." The next morn-

ing, he recalled, he found himself strangely

drawn to the local reference library. "I felt

as if I was being led," he said, "by some

great power I could not explain." If his main

emotions - passionate expectation, com-

bined with a fear of ridicule - are similar

to those which might have gripped other

nioneers such as Marconi or Edison, it is

not yet acknowledged that his legacy to humanity will be quite so widely acclaimed as wireless telegraphy or the lightbulb.

The idea that struck Ron on Highway

One was to build a submerged hydraulic

platform in the Sea of Galilee which, from

August, will allow visitors to walk on the

water, in the footsteps of Jesus, for about 10 shekels (roughly £1.50) a time.

metre walkway a few inches under the

water, will be sited at Capernaum, the site

of Christ's original, unassisted excursion

almost 2,000 years ago. It is one of the Millennium schemes which has had planning

approval from the Israeli authorities,

whose preparations for the millions of extra

visitors expected in 2000 are felt by many

in the country to have been confused, late.

and inadequate. Major expects his "Walk on the Water Experience" will be able to

carry 50 tourists at once. Actually, Ron, a

44-year-old Israeli whose law degree is from

Leeds University, isn't too keen on the term

The device, which consists of a 100-

"I want each pilgrim to feel that we are treating the whole idea very seriously," he explained. "This is not a joke. This is not Disney World."

Ron Major is best known here as the manager of some leading Israeli pop stars. A father of four and a former Israeli tank commander, he has retained the army haircut which, from certain angles, gives him the look of a young Uncle Fester.

An articulate, well-defended man, Major

hecame strangely unsure of himself when I asked him why he was building the Walk on the Water.

Profit, he insisted, was never his motive. So was he religious? "I don't go to synagogue," he said. "I don't have any logical explanation for what I am doing."

Major had brought along plans for the platform – a thick carpet of perspex, invisible to the walker, set on a metal frame supported by pistons which can be adjusted according to water level.

Along the submerged catwalk Ron has provided a safety-net, which resembles a massive, sausage-shaped snooker pocket, to catch any pilgrims who – overcome by zeal, old age or a long lunch – fall off. Lifeguards will empty the nets of customers who have come to grief

who have come to grief.

I arranged to meet Major a couple of days later, near his proposed site in Capernaum. It wasn't too hard to spot him there: most of the visitors to Galilee are devout people of limited means, travelling

with coach parties. As a consequence, you do tend to notice a pilgrim who arrives in a chauffeur-driven, 12-seater, air-conditioned, executive people-carrier, and wearing shades.

wearing shades.

We walked down to the site on the rocky shore of the Sea of Galilee, where work is due to start next month. Major cut a surreal figure on the deserted beach, in the pinstripe suit whose jacket he declined to remove even for a photograph. The sun was beating down on his office clothes; a few feet away from his heavy black brogues. a huge, dead catfish, jammed into the centre of a discarded car tyre hy some malevolent fisherman, bobbed around at the

water's edge like some hideous omen.
"Ah, my friend," Ron remarked to the fish, "you are beginning to stink." The Sea

of Galilee is actually a freshwater lake, 14 miles long by three across, a couple of hours' drive north of Tel Aviv. The shores of the sea are, by European standards, gloriously undeveloped. Not for long: the Israeli government is about to build a coach terminal and jetty at Capernaum, with parking for 50 coaches, which will be only

about 100 yards from Major's attraction.

Persistent questioning revealed him to be no clearer than before about the precise funding of his project. The overwhelming majority of the funds. Major said. will come from the government. The more I listened, I told him, the more I was convinced that now was the time for me to motor down to Cana and open my own "Water Into Wine" experience, where

see their glass of Perrier magically transformed into Lamhrusco.

"Your thing," said Ron. "is just a little hit too much. Your idea," he went on, "is just cheap." Was it hlasphemous?

"Yes," he said.

As we left the Sea of Galilee, Major pointed out a nearby huilding site. "A hotel," he said. "Five hundred dollars a night." The project is one of many being frantically completed around the country. In 1998, Israel attracted 2.1 million tourists. Just how many more will come for the Millen-

will come from the government. The more I was I listened, I told him, the more I was convinced that now was the time for me to motor down to Cana and open my own "Water Into Wine" experience, where pilgrims would pay £2 so that they could

health permitting – then, according to the Vatican Travel Agency, Israel should hrace itself for anything up to an extra four million pilgrims.

Not everybody is certain to welcome these guests with Ron Major's admirable financial disinterest. A gift shop further down the lake sells empty plastic bottles, in the sbape of Christ, for £1.50. Pilgrims can also purchase Mary Magdalene eou de toilette. At nearby Kursi, you can pay \$10 to have a Millennium candle lit in your name: a service also available over the Internet. The money goes to the Jubillennium Organisation, a commercial outfit which will donate proceeds to charity and has prepared everything from car stickers to carpets, adorned with the face of the Redeemer.

The Israelis have set aside \$400m to pay for new roads, hotels and improvements to Tel Aviv airport. But even now, just weeks before hotels would expect firm block-bookings to start coming in, there is a surprising vagueness over what is actually going to take place in the Holy Land at the Mil-lennium. The official tourist brochure for 2000 claims to be the culmination of "years of efforts", before warning readers that it contains only a very tentative list of events, including the International Bike Race up Mount Sodom and the Israeli Cowboy festival. The most ambitious events, such as the proposed concert by the Three Tenors, have been arranged by towns which are under the control of the Pales-

Everywhere in Israel planning law is complicated, to put it mildly, by political tensions. Bethlehem, an unmissable destination for most Christian visitors, is controlled by Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority. The town hopes to attract two million tourists in the year 2000. Even on a quiet day, however, Israeli road blocks can mean the 15-minute drive from Jerusalem to Jesus's hirthplace can take up to two hours. In the hope of improving mutual understanding and co-ordination, Israeli and Palestinian spokesmen met earlier this month in Jerusalem to discuss plans for Bethlehem in the year 2000.

Politicians and tourist officials struggled to address the main areas of unease: the possible saturation of capacity at Tel Aviv airport, and the readiness of new hotel rooms. Even if the official forecast of four million were correct, said Shabtai Shai, director-general of the Israeli Tourist Board, only a fraction of visitors would be able to visit the two crucial Christian shrines: Jerusalem's Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the Basilica of the Nativity in Bethlehem. The Holy Sepulchre, built on the site of the Crucifixion, can handle only a maximum of 750,000 visitors annually.

Continued on page 8

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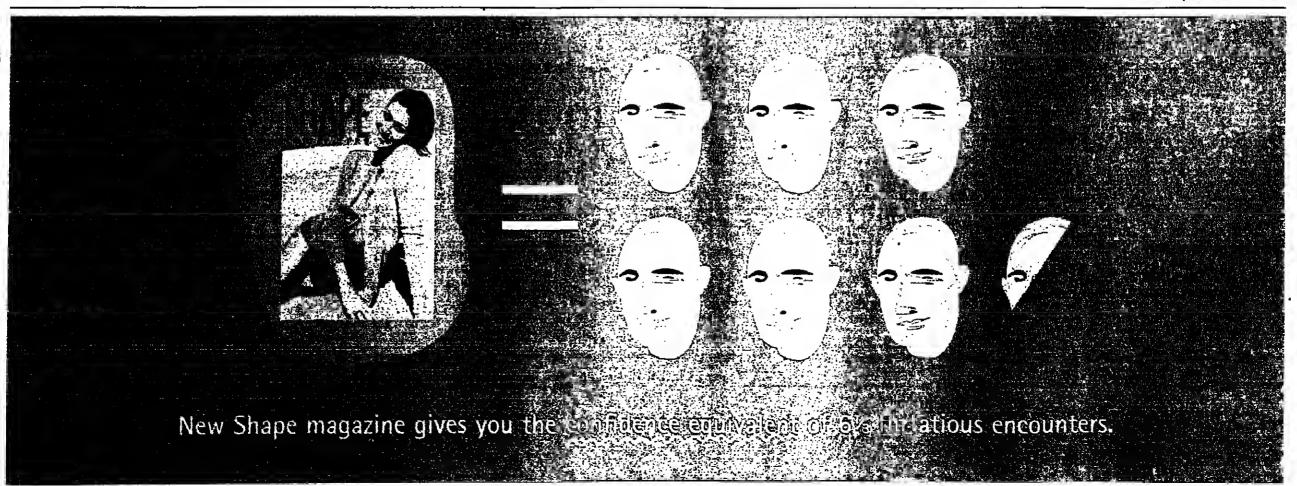
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SCENCE



The path to peace

Sir: No lasting peace can be made in Kosovo without the agreement of the people of Serbia, inside and outside the province. The only way they can express their views and perhaps be led to an agreement is if they have a democratic regime.

To encourage its growth must. therefore, be our main aim. To this end, the best thing we can do now is stop the bombing as soon as Nato preconditions are implemented. For the same reasoa we should not send in ground troops.

Until then, Kosovo must obviously be under international administration, and bombing is justified as a means to this. Indeed, democracy in Serbia should be a precondition to any consideration of Kosovo returning to Serb sovereignty.
It is not inconceivable that

Kosovars could tolerate the sovereignty of a democratic Serbia, provided they had a fully confederal status guaranteed by the UN and (Palestinians note) Nato. The ideal would be powersharing based on the proportion of populations before 1989.

What we can learn from these events is that today it is not practical to rely on dictatorial regimes for international peace or internal security. ANTONY BLACK Professor in the History of Political Thought University of Dundee

Sir: I am seriously concerned about your front page story " 'The plane is going to Turkey,' said the official. 'But don't tell the refugees. They might refuse to get on' (report, 7 April).

Turkey is not a place where people do not want to go. Millions of European tourists visit Turkey every year. The refugees do not want to go to Turkey because their relatives are not in Turkey. They do not want to go to Turkey because they are separated from their families and they think that they might never see their relatives again.

You should have praised Turkey since it bas accepted 20,000 refugees. MUSTAFA CIN University of Durham

Sir: Britain's military intervention into the civil war in Yugoslavia was utterly irresponsible and could only exacerbate the suffering. Yet, instead of challenging the rhetoric of the Western military and political elite about "casualtyfree", "precision" attacks and "bumanitarianism", the Britisb press largely backed the hombing.

More recently the press. panicking over the apparent failure of the bombing strategy. has spoken in almost a single voice to call for ground troops to eject Serb forces from Kosovo. This outpouring of militaristic jingoism is made to appear normal and rational when virtually all the dominant media promote it. A few voices in comment pieces have expressed concerns over the bombings.

As a result the debate in the country over the war has been seriously distorted and the complexities of the conflict have been simplified in a way to promote support for military action. Not surprising then that opinion polls show the propaganda working.

people had been told the facts about the First World War they would never bave supported it. We believe the same is true of the war in Yugoslavia. DR RICHARD KEEBLE City University, London JOHN PILGER PHILLIP KNIGHTLEY TIM GOPSILL

TESSA MAYES

Lloyd George said that if the

Sir: Reading in Mary Braid's "Serbs in Britain: When the truth is too painful to helieve" (Review, 3 April) the opinions of Britishhased Serbs claiming that the ethnic cleansing of Kosovo Albanians is not taking place, that it's all propaganda, a chill went

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters independent, coak. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address.

Letters may be edited for length and clarity



Working Poland No 5: A cellist makes her way to rehearsals in a Warsaw suburb

Tom Pilston

down my spine. Familiar sounding language?
Such a shame then that these

are the people whose fathers fought so bravely against the instigators of that other "noaexistent" holocaust. JOHN A FINDER Middlesex

Sir. Serbs, like others in the Balkans, rely on satellite coverage from CNN and others for more informed news of the conflict. In the 1930s and 1940s the German people could claim that they were ignorant of the atrocities committed by their government and troops. Today's Serbian people

can have no such claim. The sight of pro-Milosevic Serbs daily demonstrating in Whitehall makes my blood boil. Last week when I challenged them I had an aggressive Serb run after me as I walked away, demanding to know:

I wonder if I could peacefully protest in Belgrade against their genocide? KEVIN GREENAN London N6

'What's your problem.'

Sir: With millions of refugees on the move and in desperate straits. God preserve us from ever being rescued by Nato!

After three weeks of the combined might of Nate airpower. one little tin pot country continues to do exactly as it pleases.

Thank goodness Nato never had to defend us against a Serb attack especially if it happened to be cloudy or windy at the time). DAVID H LEWIS Caerphilly, Mid Glamorgan

Rewarding teachers

Sir: The simplest way to introduce performance-related pay for teachers is to employ them on fixed-term contracts of no more than five years.

In the vast majority of cases jobs would be renewed and, the better the teacher, the better the deal he or she could cut with the school's governors. The incompetent or idle would be warned in good time that their contracts were unlikely to be renewed on present performance. They would improve or pay the

consequences. A simple set of rules would include safeguards to protect senior teachers on higher salaries from losing out to younger, cheaper colleagues.

By comparison with the payment-by-results scheme as outlined by the Government, fixedterm contracts are bassle-free and bring the teaching profession into the real world. Denbigh,

Sir: When performance-related pay was introduced in the polytechnic where I worked in 1993, we lecturers accurately predicted the names of those of our colleagues who would get it.

They were, to a man, that type of teacher who really doesn't like

Sir: Christopher Walker

fundamentalism.

Birkoeck College

"natural" time.

(letter, 6 April) asks why if

religion is a good thing, it is

The same reasoning would

indicate that democracy is a

bad thing, given the obvious

folly of mass hysteria and the

GWEN GRIFFTTH-DICKSON

Sir: Paul Newbold (letter, 6

April: considers that we

should stop "messing our

Greeowich Meao Time

clocks about" and return to

throughout the year, as this is

we organise our lives should

be rigidly controlled by the

I cannot accept that the way

astrological calculations of the

bad in its extreme forms, like

This is an odd sort of logic.

teaching but who prefers to spend his time administering. Bad teachers who realise that

not only is teaching hard work but that it is also very badly paid with few prospects usually opt for the only career path available to them. They become cronies of

someone in the management and trade hard work in the classroom for paper pushing and staff-room politics. The pay is better. Indeed, as a manager, it is

possible, under present structures, to earn two or three times as much as a classroom teacher for doing what amounts, often, to little more than clerical work.

The solution is to pay teachers realistic wages to attract good graduates and to develop a cadre of school administrators to handle all the cierical support.

The job-for-life culture should be ended. Teachers should have annual contracts with tenure only awarded after a number of years. Appraisal should not be by the head because this leads to cronyism.

IN BRIEF

17th century and later, which

produced the present concept

It seems perfectly "natural"

to attempt to make our waking

hours coincide with the hours

of daylight, and I look forward

should follow the example of

Sir: I am not a MedTV viewer.

hut if it were really the sort of

ttetter, 5 April), callers could

appeal for the decapitation of

to the time wheo we have

throughout the year. We

British Summer Time

those most "natural"

creatures, the hirds.

Seaford, East Sussex

station on which, as its

managing director admits

PAUL BARACLOUGH

Rather, there should be termly student evaluations. This is the way most European and American schools and colleges are run. They do not have our levels of teacher discontent. CHRIS PAYNE

Uxbridge, Middlesex

Sir: Your editorial ("A quartet of unions that do the teachers a great disservice", 31 March) is wide of the mark. All the teachers unions are right to be objecting to the Green Paper. There is ao known way of

measuring an individual teacher's impact on pupil performance. What is known is that there is a variety of factors which influence child development, not least the home environment. (And by recent reports, with over 25 per cent of children living in poverty, this is highly relevant, but ignored, as

with the league tables. Governors and heads of schools are being asked to implement, from September, a pay-related-toperformance system which does

the Turkish Prime Minister in

a phone-in programme, why

on earth was it allowed oo

Mrs PATRICIA COLERIDGE

Sir: The law of wills, trusts and

executries in Scotland is very

different to the law in England

It is important that people

subject. It is vital that they are

and Wales ("Where there's a

wilt there's a way to avoid

family feuds". 27 March).

consider making a will and

taking legal advice on the

advised on the right law in

can cause a legacy of misery.

The Law Society of Scotland

DOUGLAS R MILL

Chief Executive

Edinburgh

the airwaves?

London SW6

doing so.

Adoption is difficult Sir: I have read recently numbers

not exist, and therefore, to do so

time to make it work.

consequences of the

Lancaster,

without the skills, experience or

They will also be required to

accept the judgements of external

inconsistencies and unfairness in

the application of differential pay

scales and bours of work that will

inevitably happen with decisions being made at 24,000 schools. ROBERT AITKEN

assessors and manage the

of articles concerning the attitude of Social Service departments to the adoption of children in their care ("Councils named in adoption crisis", 7 April).

For over 20 years we were foster carers for one of the counties meatioaed in the survey.

Apart from the tiny babies, for whom there is no shortage of adoptive parents, social workers were at their wits' end trying to find suitable adoptive parents.

Because of the acute shortage of couples or families coming forward children can he placed in inappropriate situations where couples desperate for families take on children whose difficulties are so immense as to be insuperable.

Very few children awaiting adoption are under five, problemfree and able to fit into a new family easily.

I would not feel capable of adopting an older child myself and in all honesty t could oot advise the average couple to adopt unless they had vast experience. extensive training and guaranteed hackup, however much love and cherishing they could provide. Do not hlame sociat workers

for not being able to place Incorrect legal information children in suitable loving homes acts as misinformation. That which are oot readily available: they do a pretty thankless task most of the time. Mrs CYNTHIA SENIOR Cheshire

Death wishes

Sir: It mystifies me that so much can be written about the problems of euthanasia with no mention of Advance Directives.

Doctors undoubtedly have a problem but surely this can be reduced if patients have arranged clear and precise details of their wishes. What possible right could medical people have to ignore this directive on the grounds of their own moral or religious conviction?

My father, at 83, was reduced by

a stroke from a vital, intelligent man to a bedridden misery. Communication was not easy but there was no doubt he wanted to die. It was three years before he did so. He was utterly degraded.

For myself, approaching 70, with no relatives this side of the world and ao desire to prolong my life in pain and disablement, what can I do? I carry an Advance Directive, copies of which are with a solicitor and my doctor, but what happens if I end up in hospital unconscious?

The medical scene is ultimately going to have to adjust to the idea that if they ignore an Advance Directive they may leave themselves open to legal sanctions. IA BROWN St Andrews,

Sir. The anti-euthanasia lobby claims the right to overrule "living wills", private agreements by people they don't even know, on the fragile grounds that while near death the subjects may not be able to say that they have changed their minds.

But this interfering attitude flatty contradicts the proper and fully legal practice whereby with ordinary wills, nobody dare suggest that the deceased's wishes, expressed when "sound of mind", should not be carried out because be/sbe might have changed their mind but be unable to communicate such change.

The anti-euthanasia lobby therefore stands accused of gross double standards; unless, of course, they would be happy for their own "last will and testament" to be ignored on the ground that . they might have changed their minds, but be unable to communicate that fact. LEN CLARKE Uxbridge, Middlesex

Sir: I am an octogenarian, 85. When I realised that I was growing old, at 74. I made a declaration and put in writing what I now know has become a "living will".

I am'a bumanist with no religious hang-ups and have found life all the more exciting because it ends in death.

However, I would ask those doctors who are religious to contemplate the fact that both Jesus and The Prophet displayed and taught great compassion something which we extend to other animals in terminal disfress

but deny to ourselves. Thus it should be left to the wisbes of the person concerned and not to the dictates of religions whose main aim in life appears to be the creation of wars whilst at the same time they deny the peace and safety of death to those in terminal decline. Please, let the lawyers decide this issue and give us peace at the last. CYRIL C J FAIRBROTHER

Mid Glamorgan

Artillery of words

Sir: I smile at Paul Hodson's hleat (letter, 29 March) about the ridiculously long hours they work at the EC in Brussels. It seems to me that they produce

ridiculously long analyses the importance of which are in inverse proportion to the words. Words versus importance can be

exemplified thus: there are 56 words in the Lord's Prayer, 294 in . the Ten Commandments, 300 in the Declaration of Independence and 26,911 in the European Community directive on the export of duck eggs! RPJKING Wimborne,

How to make a million without going to Torquay

TODAY WE are continuing our travel-writing master class, in which we claim to tell you how to convert your summer holiday experiences into

So, can you tell me how I go about converting my summer holiday experiences into literature?

It depends on what kind of literature you want to dabble in, whether light journalism or fulllength books. If you are going to turn your summer hols into a travel article, you must remember to keep all your bills and leaflets, because travel editors always ask questions like "How much did it cost to eat at the super little restaurant you mentioned ?" and "What are the opening times of the Eiffel Tower?". If you're going to turn your holiday into a TV sitcom, take

along a lot of disagreeable relatives and stay at unsuitable places, to give you ideas. If you want to turn your holiday into light-hearted reminiscences, don't have a wonderful time. Wonderful times don't make for funny articles. Was it not humorous writer Basil Boothroyd who, when asked how his summer holiday went, replied: 'Awful Nothing went wrong at all."?

Well, was it? Yes, it was.

But I don't see how any of this is going to help me. Has anyone ever gone to stay at a rotten hotel and turned it into n sitcom? Think of Fawlty Towers, which

John Cleese wrote merely after staying in Torquay.

I don't really want to go to Torquay. Hasn't anyone ever gon: to France on a cheapo-cheapo ers turn everything into a novel.

outing and then turned their summer holiday into a best-seller?

Yes. Robert Louis Stevenson with Traoels with n Donkey. Holidays don't come cheaper than a few weeks on a donkey. Mmm. But I bet you can't no me

nnyone who spent n boring little holiday in England going to n boring conventional place doing boring conventional things and made a best-seller out of it. Want to bet?

How about Jerome K Jerome and Three Men in a Boat? Damn. But hold on - Jerome

didn't just relate what happened. He gingered it up with funny bits. He turned it into a sort of a novel. Oh, grow up! I thought I made it clear yesterday that travei-writ-



MILES KINGTON

No travel-writer sticks to the truth - if you wanted the truth you'd

buy a railway timetable

with themselves as heroes. No travel-writer ever sticks to the truth - they just use it as a start-

ing point. If you wanted the truth, you d buy a railway timetable.

The most interesting thing

about a travel book is the writer, who always has to decide what sort of person he wants to be in the book. Jerome K Jerome decided to be a larky sort of a chap. Bill Bryson decided to be a friendly sort of a chap. Paul Theroux decided to be a badtempered sort of a chap. The central character is the author, not the country being described.

The most interesting thing about Queen Victoria's Highland Journals is the fact that they were written on her summer hols by the reigning monarch of Britain. Indeed, that is the only interesting thing about them.

So you've read them, have you?

No. but they are an interesting example of a best-seller that nobody reads. The same appties to all those books by TV travellers, written to go with the programme. Not to mention Peter Mayle.

Peter Mayle? I told you not to mention him. Is Peter Mayle actually an in-

teresting example of anything? Yes. A Year in Provence was a rare example of a TV programme which was made to go with a book.

I didn't think the programme was much good. It certainly didn't tell you anything about France. That's why it went so well with the book. Don't forget, by the way, that lots of people go on their holidays and use their experiences as

the basis for real novels. Rumer

Godden's Greengage Summer. for

example. Arthur Ransome's Lake

District stuff. John Mortimer's Tuscarry-based novels. Yes, but.

Look. If all else fails, when you go on holiday, try writing some postcards bome and try writing the truth! No one ever does that. They only write the sort of things that people at home expect to hear. Never the truth. Buy a big postcard, write the truth on it and don't send

it. It's the start of your best-seller. That's it? That's all I get from your travel-writing master class? Write a big postcard!

That's all What kind of master class is this, nnyway?

The usual kind. The kind where the teacher shows off and the pupil learns nothing.

Thanks for nothing. You're welcome.

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*THE INDEPENDENT

1 CANADA SQUARE, CANARY WHARF, LONDON E14 5DL TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000 FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171 345 2435 THE INDEPENDENT ON THE INTERNET: WWW.INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Wales needs a leader to transcend old tribal loyalties

THE POLITICS of a devolved Scotland bave not turned out as anyone expected, but no one can deny the vigour of the campaign for elections to the first parliament to sit north of the border since 1707. It is vigorous both in the sense that it is energetic and that it is healthy. Labour has its many faults in Scotland, but it is also committed to working with the Liberal Democrats and with the "social partners" in a way which inhibits its tendency to machine politics. It also faces formidable opposition from the Scottish National Party, which keeps it honest.

In Scotland, then, devolution is already a success. All the parties accept it - even the Scottish Conservatives, who yesterday apologised for their past ultra-unionism and the argument has moved on to what to do with it.

Wales is different. Devolution was always going to be asymmetrical, but Wales bas not yet even accepted the concept. The referendum there was won by a whisker. Many of the Noes, especially those who think of themselves as English, did not bother to turn out for an issue they thought had nothing to do with them. Meanwhile, the Conservatives have taken up arms against devolution and are positioning themselves as the English party. The paradox of Wales is that, despite a separate language, its nationalism is weaker and its national culture more divided. Thus the Tories have performed a U-turn on their policy in Government, which was to promote the teaching of Welsh, while Plaid Cymru, in an effort to clamber out of the Welshspeaking ghetto which has long put a cap on its aspirations, has renamed itself Plaid Cymru the Party of Wales.

The sum of these manoeuvres is that Labour faces a weak opposition, split three ways, while the electoral system means that Labour is likely to win an overall majority on the Cardiff assembly even if its vote is around 45 per cent. That will be bad for Wales, because Labour's internal culture there is still Leninist, in that the party sees its role as to interpret the popular will rather than serve it. In the recent leadership election, out came the trade union block votes, justified by bosses from the Cretaceous Era intoning that they "know what our members think".

Ron Davies, the former Welsh Secretary making a miraculous recovery from his "moment of madness", was well-versed in the inbred boss-politics of Wales Labour, but at least he forced a reformed electoral system on a reluctant party. Recently, in the preface to a scholarly analysis of two of these islands' nationalisms, Scotland and Wales: Nations Again?, be accused Tony Blair of not taking devolution seriously and of failing to nurture pluralism in Wales. It is a fair criticism - as well as an intriguing sign of the degree to which Mr Davies thinks the post of first minister for Wales is still open to competition.



Another of the multiple ironies of the list system is that the Prime Minister's favourite, Alun Michael, needs Labour to poll relatively poorly in order to guarantee his top-up seat in the Cardiff assembly. Which means Mr Davies may find himself up against Rhodri Morgan, the people's choice and the Labour machine's nightmare, in the fight to lead a devolved Wales.

The final irony is that the candidate Wales really oeeds is the one who will be most like Mr Blair himself - someone capable of reaching out, especially from a position of strength, beyond the tribal loyalties of the Labour Party and building a popular coalition. As in any one-party state, the question of who Labour chooses as its leader is more important than the precise shares of the parties' votes on election day. Until Wales gets a little of its own Blairite inclusiveness, uniting the nation in a modern identity which does not depend on the language, there is little prospect of the Welsb assembly being anything more than a division of English local government.

Europe shows us the way on interest rates

TO EVERYONE'S surprise, the normally ultra-cautious European Central Bank yesterday lopped a wbole half-per cent off euro interest rates to take them down to 2.5 per cent. To no one's surprise, the Bank of England inched its rates down a quarter per cent to 5.25 per cent.

Why the difference in approach? Why, indeed, the difference in interest rates. Cynics say it all has to do with the departure of Germany's finance minister, Oskar Lafontaine. The cut he so aggressively sought was only possible when he was no longer in the post and the ECB could not be accused of giving in to political pressure.

The more sensible reason is probably that the European Bank, having decided that the risks of renewed recession

tion, decided a dramatic move was the only way to wrong foot the market and re-establish a secure position for the coming months. The Bank of England reached the same conclusion about relative risk but felt that anything more than a quarter per cent might over-excite the markets and fan the ever present flames of inflation.

It may be only a difference of tactic but it is also a difference of strategy. In the end the European Bank has decided that economic considerations of the wider world should outweigh the narrower remit of monetary targets. The monetary committee, more conscious of the odium of failure than of congratulations on courage, cannot raise its head that high. Good reason then for abandoning the practice of publishing minutes. It only induces constipation among the committee members. An even better reason for hastening to join the euro. Eddie George in his banking hall may see only the figures before him. Out there in the real world it makes no sense that British business in Europe were greater than the risks of resurgent infla- has to pay double that of its European competitors.

Now is the time for all good folk to come to the aid of the union

MY ROAD to Damascus began nearly trodden-hy-the-English, mentality three years ago. The England-Scotland Euro 96 game at Wembley, the first cross-border international for Broweheart myth, Scotland was not comany years, was an eye-opener for me as it was for many London residents of Scottish extraction. My first discovery was that, having arrived without strong opinions, I instinctively supported Scotland, a feeling which grew as Scotland went down

The second, much more important, was the real shock at seeing, in the sea of St George's flags, something which I had hitherto thought of as no more than a mystical construct: English nationalism. Suddenly, the possibility of a mutually agreed divorce between the two countries seemed real in a way it had never seemed before. My Damascene moment. Which is what this election will primarily be about. When the government's main challenger is a party committed to an independent Scotland, it is time to take notice.

Let's make the important concession first. Scotland and England are two countries, and always were, before and after the Act of Union. The English have too long ignored that inconvenient fact. But why on earth should that mean that they have to be a separate nation states?

Some Scottish nationalists, ignoring the legion of contrary facts spelt out in an important pamphlet by Gordon Brown and the young MP Douglas Alexander, New Scotland New Britain - such as that spending is 24 per cent more per head in Scotland than in England - like to generate an untermensch, down- many occasion since.

among the Scots. But, in stark contrast to Ireland, and contrary to the fatuous erced into the Union by the absentee English landlords and the jackbooted English regiments. It was a voluntary arrangement which has long suited both countries extremely well.

Let's forget, for the time being the obvious threat to Britain's interna-tional clout. Or the tuge potential downside for Scotland's economy. Let's concentrate instead on another fashionable and sentimental fallacy, that somehow it is more left wing to embrace the SNP.

My guess is that Scottish voters, even in the supposedly red bastions of west central Scotland will, just like their English counterparts, find that in the privacy of the ballot box that they rather like Gordon Brown's planned cut in income tax. But there is a much larger point. The SNP by its very nature, places national identity above social justice. To put it in an oldfashioned way, whatever happened to the politics of class?

You don't actually have to be a Marxist to recognise that Scottish telephone call centre workers have more interests in common with their counterparts in Yorkshire than with the Highland landed aristocracy.

But the other, sinister, spectre subliminally raised by those, particularly in England, who treat the prospect of Scottish independence with indifference is the one just visible in all those St George's flags flaying that match at Wembley two years ago - and on



DONALD **MACINTYRE**

'English', when applied to nationality, has always been a mean, narrow, Caucasian little word meaning retreat

Most of those who advocate the new English nationalism are Conservatives who fondly imagine that they will control England in perpetuity, freed of all those tiresome Scottish MPs who from time to time give Labour a thumping great parliamentary majority. As it happens, in every election since the war in which Lahour has had a parliamentary majority, it bas also had a majority in

England and Wales. But much worse is nationalism's poverty of vision. The porousness of the England-Scotland border has greatly enriched England as well as Scotland. Leave the arts, or the sciences, or engineering, or writing out of it, if you will. You bave only to look at the many Scots in the Cabinet to see how far political life would be impoverished hy sending them all "home".

But there is another point - one They then add: "In Britain our chalwhich paradoxically suggests that lenge is different: to succeed not just the election campaign, may help to restate the benefits of a British identity.

My paternal grandparents were. respectively, from Stornoway and Glasgow and my maternal ones Jews of Eastern European extraction. Born in London, I have always thought it pretentious - and not particularly accurate - to describe myself as Scottish. But I have never thought of myself as remotely English, British suits me fine. This would be a fact of stunning irrelevance if it were not that I suspect this also goes for those of my fellow citizens who are ethnically South Asian or Afro-Caribbean or say - Cypriot. English has always, when applied to nationality, seemed to me a mean, narrow: Caucasian, little word, which speaks of retreat in place

and time. British does work for multi-culturalism. if only, paradoxically, because of its vestigial links with an imperialism - in which, by the way, the Scots ounched well above their weight which made most of our forefathers. black, white and brown, British subjects whether we liked it or uot.

What makes the United States such an exceptional, and for all its faults, wonderfully successful country is the common idea of Americanism which runs, in the words of the Woody Guthrie song, "from California to the New York island, and which helps to unite the most epic ethnic mix on the planet. Or as Brown and Alexander but it "America's national identity absorbs and transcends the diverse ethnicities to that came to its shores."

as a multi-cultural and multi-ethnic country tut as a multi-national one as well." That works if you ascribe the word British to the two countries north and south of the horder. It works not at all if we lose the British and retreat into our Scottishness, or God help us, Englishness. Which is just what the independence freaks on both sides of the border want.

Forget about the huffing and puffing about Alex Salmond's condemnation about the war in Serbia as "unpardonable folly". True it smacks, like his tax pledge, a little of the desperate act he didn't need to commit. Whether it was electorally wise is not the point. He was perfectly entitled to make it. But there is, oddly, a Balkan connection. And no, you don't have to compare Salmond, an astute, open, and impeccatly democratic politician, with a Serbian nationalist to make it. But when the hideous deformity which prevented Tito's Yugoslavia from turning seamlessly into a democratic unitary state which might now be in the EU was precisely Slohodan Milosevic's decision to play the nationalist card in Kosovo in 1987 and 1989, it seems a mighty off time to revert to the politics of nationalism and separation. The Liberal Democrats have been playing far too much footsie with the nationalists for comfort

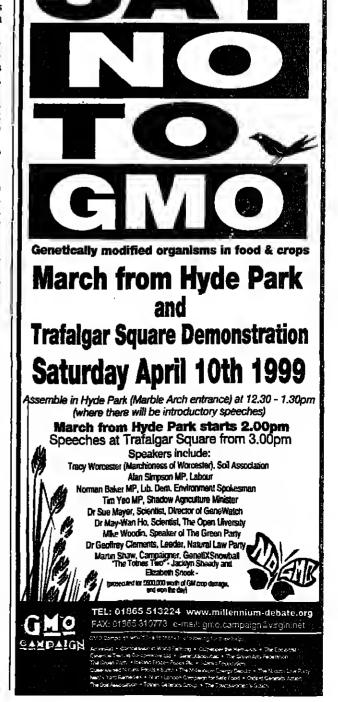
There are only two choices in this Itugely important election in Scotland. Vote for the Union. This means voting Labour - or if you can't hring yourself to do that - vote Conservative.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"This is just a publicity stunt to try and say they didn't kill my son." Neville Lawrence, on the TV interview with the alleged killers of his son

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Never sell the bear's skin before you have killed the beast." Jean de Lo Fontaine. French poet



priority, all the more so in the civilians. light of the latest events in The Nation, Thailand Maliana. A UN police force should be deployed in East Timor as soon as possible, to monitor and implement a ceasefire and disarmament of both East Timorese armed of the current situation, the

THE INDEPENDENCE move- would no longer suffice to ment regards the immediate guarantee the safety of the disarmament and disbanding of population, as these groups civilian militias as an urgent are murdering defenceless

WHETHER OR not a UN peacekeeping force is the answer to East Timor's worsening situation, there is little doubt that the UN cannot afford to ignore the factions. Unfortunately, in view writing on the wall. Jakarta has showed a refreshing willingestablishment of such a force ness to respect the wishes of

MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD International comment on the recent massacres in East Timor

even if they amount to secession, but the writ of the allpowerful Indonesian armed

the East Timorese people respond to the danger signals before it is too late. Khaleej Times, UAE

forces evidently still runs large. IT IS imperative that the In-International opinion must donesian military keep coni- Hong Kong Standard, Chinn

process. What is worrying is that surreptitiously the military will arm those who want East Timor to continue to be a part of Indonesia, so that they can "convince" the voters with their weapons if they fail to do so by reason. It would be far more advisable and prudent for those like General Wiranto to leave the East Timorese to decide their future without blandishments, threats or arms.

THE SITUATION is clearly depletely out of this political teriorating. At the very least, this suggests the existing Indonesian military command in East Timor is ineffective and must be replaced. Such a move would go a long way to shoring up international confidence in Jakarta's intentions. A willingness by Jakarta to support Bishop Belo's proposal and accept United Nations civilian human rights monitors would go much further.

Sydney Morning Herald

PANDORA

A TIP of the Martini glass to ITV's commentary team, Clive Tyldesley and Ron Atkinson, whn managed to get through 90 gruelling minutes of Manchester United versus Juventus this week without once referring to the alleged sexploits of United's striking stallions Andy Cole and Dwight Yorke (pictured). Or so it seemed until Tyldesley reminded viewers that "Alex Ferguson has always said that his team can score anywhere, anyplace, anytime."

SUNSHINE N'LOLLIPOPS? Nnt for New Labour's Scottish auxiliaries. The chumps in charge nf the party, currently 12-1 on to win the most seats in the Assembly, bave chosen "Altogether Now" by the Farm as the party's campaign choon. The auspices are not good: the same song was last used seven years ago (remember?) by that electoral dynamn Neil Kinnock. But the news from bookies William Hill is unlikely to give New Labour's rivals north of the border much comfurt - the SNP are quuted at 6-1, and both the Lib-Dems and Tories are available at a very sporting 200-1.

PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE between red and grey squirrels at Stormont has excited some optimistic metaphor-making amoog pundits. But closer scrutiny of the environment reveals this is not a blueprint for peace in our time. "You won't see a grey and a red squirrel sitting on the same branch together," says a local wildlife watcher. The only time the two species meet. says our man in the undergrowth, is during food scavenging hunts. "While they don't actually attack each other," he says, "a lot of posturing goes on.



pugnacinus corporate strategist. Perhaps be can begin by persuading the tousle-haired Irish philanthropist Boh Geldnf to stop bumiliating the tablnid babe. Just consider Boycott's embarrassment at a literary festival party she hasted recently in London. Rocking Bob was meant to present Canadian nnvelist Margaret Atwood with a trophy before the assembled worthies. Strangely, he seems to have found better things to do with his time.

MILLENNIUM DOME sculptor Nigel Coates was partying this week with designers Ally Cappellino and Antonio Berardi, painter Jonathan Yeo and thesp Sheha Ronay at the La Perla show for Marino Parisotto Vay at the Serpentine Gallery. Perhaps it was caprice, perhaps it was too much pop but several femmes were seen wearing garters, which they had received as parting gifts. over their eyes, yashmakstyle. Is it a trend? Is it a fastion statement? Or is it just stupid? Sure, Asian esoterica is all the rage but where will this end underpants on our noggins?

wondrous hairstyle were surprised to get a call from Mike Tyson, speaking from his Maryland prison cell Please Don, the ex-champ lisped, let's forget our beef about money and put this bad blood behind us. All will be forgiven, Tyson promised, if you fly down here right now because I bave a really serious problem. The hypnotically tressed fight promnter jumped nn his jet and flew down to the prison. Only to find nn arrival that Tyson wouldn't see him and still hates him: the stunt was the work of a talented mimic at a local radio station. Is this a case of the biter bit, or the promnter fixed?

DON KING and his

GEORGE MICHAEL, whose oral talents won him the Vocalist of the Year gong at Awards this month, is releasing a new single called "Y2K". The singer's mouthpiece Insists the title is a millennial reference. But far from official auces have noticed the planet's dominant zipper manufacturer is a Japanese firm called YKK. Is this. they wonder, another self-depreciating reference to the singer's predilection for impromptu bathroom inspections? Contact Pandora by e-mail: pandora@

Shakespeare in black and white

SOMETIMES. WE Asians make life a lot barder for ourselves. A prominent Asian politician, writing in response to one of my columns, scolds me for being too "intellectual". Another man who keeps a watchful eve on these things says that Vikram Seth has sold out because his new book, An Equal Music, is all about Europeans: "He was so sound. Now he makes such a big mistake. What a pure book A Suitable Boy was. How proud it made me as an Indian."

At a meeting to discuss arts funding, black and Asian individuals denounce the Royal Shakespeare Company and Shakespeare in Love for promoting "Christian" culture. Blindfolded by prejudice, these people never experience the joy of seeing black RSC actors playing Romeo or Tybalt. They certainly don't know that Stratford had its first tilack actor, Edric Connor, in 1958. Some tilack and Asian intellectuals. as an act of political defiance. refuse to read books by white authors. (They still buy food from white supermarkets and get treated by

white doctors. This deliberate narrowing of the



YASMIN ALIBHAI-BROWN

Can you imagine Derek Walcott denying himself books written by people. who are racially different?

imagination and cultural claustrophobia is frightening. Can you imagine any of our great world writers. like Derek Walcott, Maya Angelou or Arthur Miller, denying themselves access to books because they have been written by people who are racially different from them? There are even those who believe that to be considered authentic, black and Asian Britons

should concentrate on rap and bhangra and leave "high art" alone.

The irony is that many first generation immigrants find these gestures risible. They made their long journeys because they had imbibed the best of British culture and wanted their children to get the real thing. And though many had to go through appalling experiences, they do not, even now, feel that Shakespeare or Dickens were to blame. What they are enraged about is that the "great" British education system did not deliver, not to their children nor to the white working classes.

The Empire was an inexcusable project propelled by greed, ambition and supremacist beliefs. But it did open up all our worlds. I was only 10 when two peerless teachers from Calcutta (a place where even today, bus drivers recite TS Eliot as they rock along) inspired a whole generation of us to love and perform Shakespeare at the National Theatre in Kampala, Uganda, Later, at university, I grew to love Russian, French and American as well as the post-colonial Caribbean and African writers with equal passion. Even after independence, no authors

of us felt violated by this. When I came here in 1972, I saved money for months so I could go and see Janet Suzman playing Cleopatra at Stratford. The intensity of my feelings at the performance can never

again be reproduced. What our cultural warriors don't seem to realise is that their cultural xenophobia exactly replicates that of white people resisting diversity. They too would rather not see a black actor playing Mark Antony at the National. They too ignore theatre groups like Tara Arts because they dare to put on plays which are not easily "ethnic" but a

reflection of our complex society. And what better proof of this than the shameful new film Notting Hill, in which the filmmakers (all young, all trendy) seem to have whitened this wonderful multiracial area. Culture wars have been going on in America for at least a decade and big names like Saul Bellow, Henry Louis Gates Jnr and others have participated in the battles. There was a time when DWEMs (Dead White European Males) were in danger of artistic extinction on

were dropped from the canon. None campuses, and in Black Genius, a new collection of essays by African Americans, the novelist Walter Moseley describes how, even now: "in colleges black students and professors strive to redefine history, the definition of art 'to reopen doors to self-respect and self-knowledge'."

To avoid all this, perhaps it is time to open up a national conversation here. In the world we live in today. it is absurd to believe that white or black civilisations are the "best" and immutable. We need to expand the canon and include both what has stood the test of time and that which is always coming into being.

As times change we also need to find fresh approaches to venerated texts and other art forms. Would it not, for example, be fascinating to read a Muslim scholar responding to The Merchant of Venice? With this country now awash with mixedrace relationships, Othello has acquired new power, new resonance. These developments will be hated by cultural protectionists, white and black. We must oppose them ferociously, otherwise we too will produce the terrible ethnic fragmentations of the United States.

Nato needs Tony Blair's leadership to defeat Milosevic

THE ONLY surprise about Nato's muddled operation in Kosovo is just how quickly it has become a bloody mess. From the beginning, the Western alliance has been caught constantly responding to the actions of President Milosevic but has been never in a position to control them.

Without a sudden outbreak of Western leadership, Nato will find that the so-far vaguely defined post-Cold War world will be definitively known as the time it took for the Western alliance to join the Warsaw Pact in the dustbin of history.

The Canadian Defence Minister. Art Eggleton, now admits that the original plan of forcing Milosevic to the negotiating table and sending troops in only after a peace plan was agreed has now been overtaken by events. Nato officials bave not quite yet admitted that air power alone will not be able to force a Serb withdrawal from Kosovo, but the deliberations in Nato beadquarters about some form of an opposed deployment of ground forces, suggests a lack of faith in bombers and missiles. For all the green shoots of honesty, bowever, Nato is still too far from admitting the need for a large deployment of ground forces to roll back the Serbs.

And the time for strategic bonesty is running out fast. If we just have more of what we had in the past two weeks. Kosovo will have been effectively cleared of its Albanian population. Milosevic can assume that once the flow of refugees ceases. Western media attention will flag as will the desire to deploy ground forces. Nato's urge to wage war from the air will deflate in due course.

The pledges by Western leaders to get the refugees back home no matter how long it takes are merely the latest in a series of throken promises. The European leaders have vacillated on the refugee crisis.



GERALD SEGAL

President Clinton might have been expected to be the natural leader, but he has failed

at once saying that it would be playing into Milosevic's hands to airlift refugees from Macedonia and then responding to bumanitarian calls to do just that. Milosevic's ability to control events bas been made possible by the near absence of leadership in Nato. President Clinton, as the leader of the country that accounts for 33 per cent of global defence spending, might have been expected to be the natural leader but he has failed. Clinton is by-and-large despised by the American top brass for his evasioo of the draft, and, presumably the Monica Lewinsky affair has made it harder for the President to make a moral appeal to his people. The Serbs also know that Nato has some deep fissures, with Italy and Greece leading the chorus against the deployment of

But all may not be truly lost, for leaders are sometimes made by their times. A real leader of Nato would have to begin by honestly admitting that the one-hand-tied-behind-your-back strategy is a failure. This real leader would have to add

ground forces.

quickly that nevertheless, the cause remains just - an alliance of democracles cannot allow unspeakable horrors to take place in its backyard. As our leader would point out, fighting the good fight will be bloody, but we have professional armed forces with the latest kit precisely so they can be as efficient as possible in waging war. Our leader will admit that a major ground operation will take time to organise, just as It did in the Gulf in 1990-91, but the aggressor can be rolled back. This bonest leader will admit that in any such operation there is risk in the fact that some of our allies, such as the KLA, are an unsavoury lot.

Where will we find such a only one candidate. Tony Blair, but who bas not shirked tough political Labour commitment to hard-beaded defence policy. His 1998 Defence Review promised us an active use of UK forces beyond Europe. At St Malo last year, he swore a new determination to work with France to create a serious European fighting force. Blair claims a unique relationship with the new German Chancellor, and with a determination to rope Germany into building a credible European defence capability the Kosovo crisis gives him a golden opportunity to show Euro-leadership. Prime Minister Blair would also need to demonstrate the virtues of his special personal ties to President Clinton, because any large Nato ground force would require substantial US forces. In fact, Blair is so clearly the leader, that a failure to rise to the occasion would leave Britain especially shamed by a failure to defeat the Serbs.

This scenario is not merely another example of the British delusion



Western leader? There seems to be Mr Blair proclaims a hard-headed defence policy

be is a long shot. Here is a politician their weight" in international affairs. occupy Belgrade. But if we did not battles and who proclaims a New pacity to deploy forces abroad and it remains remarkably un-squeamish about sustaining casualties. Prime Minister Blair, who quietly welcomes the comparison of his leadership skills to that of Mrs Thatcher, will know that it was the Iron Lady who famously told George Bush not "to go wobbly" during Saddam Hussein's Invasion of Kuwait.

So far no Western leader has publicly articulated the need to find a more forceful military option in Kosovo. A bolder Blair will now call for serious consideration of a range of military strategies that will take the initiative from President Milosevic. A relatively easy option is to sink the Serb navy, if only to enhance the chances of rivalries among the Serbian military.

The main boldness will have to come in the form of deploying ground troops. When Nato last looked seriously at the issue, they concluded they needed 200,000 about their capacity to "box above" troops to invade all of Yugoslavia and

Britain is second in Nato in its ca- occupy Baghdad in the Gulf war, the signed to scare the faint-hearted. Nato's planning exercise suggested some 75,000 would be enough to take Kosovo and even less would be needed if we began with seizing part of the territory as a base for refugees. If air power is half as useful as its supporters claim, then the Serbs should be an easier target.

No one doubts that such forces are available in Nato: it is a question of political will, not capability, although the logistics of a ground operation are formidable and will require time and some willingness to take risks. A real Nato leader would take the risk, but the time for leadership is rapidly ebbing. In the less than three weeks to go before Nato's 50th anniversary summit in Washington (on 24 April), President Milosevic should have enough time to complete bis military operation.

The writer is Director of Studies at the International Institute for Strategic Studies

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Our protection against corruption t SOMETIMES feel that, the poor, the unskilled, and forming their own indepenthe unemployed rarely register. in the clamour, excite-

ment, and glitz of the preparations for the millennium, some bastard has stolen our tent; not the Millennium Dome of course, but the system of common beliefs and values which used to inform our society and protect it from the random vicissitudes of existence. It is worth notiog that in real life, the leaders of the Dome project have been remarkably coy about its contents and meaning.

In political matters, people seem to operate on the assumption that every belief and value is a matter of opinion and of equal validity, even when they contradict one another. There is at the heart of contemporary society a consequent lack of conviction and direction and obvious injustices remain unremedied.

Of course, the market rules in the economic sphere and largely determines much of more than 150 languages, holdwhat happens politically and socially.

The market caters only for resources which are marketable and needs which are solvent and the demands of justice and the human needs of

The market is not a reliable ally. Its response to righting injustice is as likely to be

obstructive as positive, and its remedies are slow working. Why, for example, has it taken the rich countries and the IMF and World Bank so long to appreciate the wickedness of the turdens placed on the shoulders of the poorest of

the poor by deht repayments? Why so long before the international community realised that the crushing impact of debt served the interests of no country? It perpetuates poverty by denying resources for education and health.

Consider the position of the two most populous countries in the world, India and China.

The first has been a stable federal parliamentary democracy from its independence. India holds together a rich variety of peoples speaking ing to all the major world religions, and espousing political views and parties ranging from the extreme nationalist right to the far anar-

chist left. India has its problems, and



PODIUM JOHN MONKS

From a speech by the general secretary of the TUC to the Commonwealth Trade Union Conference

we have pressed for new drives to combat forced and child labour, but it acknowledges those problems and there is a commitment in public policy to tackle them. And the Indian trade union organisations are not slow to expose failures of government and employers.

China is not a democracy. There is no transparency or accountability in public or economic life and working people are prevented from

widespread reports of violations of basic human rights and dissent is harshly repressed. Yet China is experiencing rapid economic growth, a rate nearly twice as fast as India. and takes eight times the inward investment which goes to India. I am not the manager of a

multinational company nor an international financier, but I wonder if those who are have missed something. I wonder if the collapse of Indonesia holds out any lessons for them - considering that there was a similar lack of accountability, a flouting of the rule of law, a pervasive culture of corruption, and the absence of independent trade unions which might channel the accumulating grievances of working people.

Does it really make sense to commit such vast resources to China and at the same time deny investment to India with its vibrancy, stability, and potential to contribute signal ly to the common good?

A system built on injustice will not stand. The shock of a world recession could well

bring the system down. i would also draw attention

to southern Africa which is dent trade unions. There are much worse placed then India in attracting investment in the globalised world though needs are acute. South Africa itself best illustrates the position. The EU still has not been able to reach a trade deal with South Africa, and there is a new slur going the rounds which must harm investment; that the South African labour market is too inflexible

That is a hit rich when it comes from very much the same people who opposed sanctions through the 1970s and 1980s and defended the most rigid and unjust labour market in modern history.

Market forces played only a minor part in this and they must not now be left by the world's political leaders to jeopardise the immense gains made for peace and justice.

The invaluable contribution which trade unions are making in many Commonwealth countries - particularly in Africa lies in their encouraging in public bodies transparency, candour, and accountability.

This is the essential protection against mismanagement, corruption, and arbitrary rule.

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It's good to talk. Honestly



STEVE CONNOR

The mobile phone controversy has all the ingredients to make the perfect scare story

SO MOBILE phones are cleared of scrambling our brains and the contraceptive pill is pronounced safe once again. How long will it be hefore another scare makes us think twice about some other every-day product? It seems an inevitable feature of modern life that just as soon as someone invents something new and useful, someone else comes along with evidence to

anggest it might end up killing us. Worries about the Pill go hack almost to when it was first introduced more than 30 years ago, but its use has almost certainly saved more lives than it has destroyed. The more recent scare, following a Government bealth warning in 1995, led to a dramatic surge in abortions. Within the nine-month period after the alert was issued, some 10,000 pregnancies were terminated, the highest abortion rate since records began in 1969.

Now we know the lifetime risk of taking the Pill is actually less than the risk of having an abortion and of giving birth. The evidence of the longest study into taking the oral contraceptive - extending over 25 years - shows that women who are on it are at no greater risk of dying from heart disease or cancers than women who have never used it. Some doctors believe that the Pill may actually protect women against certain cancers.

Mobile phones, a far more recent innovation, seem to be following a similar fate of scare and counterscare. No sooner had millions of per e decided to use them, when the first doubts about their potential health risks emerged. A gaggle of scientists were cited as having found evidence, if not hard proof, that mobiles could cause headaches, memory loss and even brain turnours. Yet the only study so far published on the effects of mobiles just a slight improvement in a person's reaction time.

If we look more carefully at the mobile phone controversy, we see it has all the necessary ingredients to make the perfect scare story. First, the devices in question are ubiquitous and so any scare can be seen to affect all of us and not just an insignificant minority. Then there is the mystery of what the



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Researchers at Bristol University carry out on an experiment to determine the effects of mobile phones on the brain

mobile phones emit - microwave radiation. It not only sounds sinister, it is invisible, and anything we can't see, can't be trusted. The final ingredient is the mysterious nature of the ill-effects themselves. The precise cause of a cancer is always a mystery and it is a natural reaction to want to blame a tumour on something, even if the disease was in fact an inevitable outcome for the person in question. And who can say whether a sudden moment of forgetfulness was caused by phone radiation, or the attention-diverting nature of the conversation itself?

This is where science is supposed to help out. The researchers at Bristol University conducted a series of tests designed to see if mobile phones could cause loss of short-term memory, or indeed any other affects on mental ability. Although they found that the suffered no apparent memory loss, the microwave radiation emitted from the devices did seem to shorten the time it took them to

perform simple mental tasks. One possible explanation is that the microwaves of a mobile phone, although far less powerful than those used in a microwave oven, slightly warmed the brain, and possibly increased the flow of blood to the nerve junctions between one part of the hrain and another, It would be easy for a layperson to conclude that scientists had after all found that mobile phones can cook your brains.

The reality, bowever, is quite different. Although the scientists had recorded a definite observation - an improved reaction time - their attempt at an explanation was just that, an attempt. In fact it was noticeable that Alan Preece, the medical physicist in charge of the research, felt that be was not qualified to speculate on what the results of the experiment meant in terms of risk to health. That was up to expert neurologists, be said.

Dr Preece was doing what any self-respecting scientist would do when faced with a difficult problem. He presents his results for criticism by his peers, gets them published and then waits for other experts to either repeat the experiment or to reinterpret the results another way. It can be a slow and protracted business, but it's how science is done.

The media, however, works on much shorter timescales with an inherent desire to clutter their stories with fewer caveats than do scientific papers. Some scientists consequently blame newspapers

for creating scares, and possibly with some justification in Dr Preece's case, given that at least one national newspaper prematurely claimed that his research had shown that mobiles cause memory loss - precisely the opposite of what he had actually found.

However, it would be unjust to blame the messenger for all scares. Take for instance the outhurst two years ago over the safe level of red meat in the diet. In 1997, Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, issued a recommendation that people should eat less red meat because of the increased risk of cancer. He said that people eating average amounts of meat - 90g a day or between eight and 10 average-sized portions a week should reduce their consumption. Naturally, given that the advice came from a senior minister of public became confused and scared.

However, the committee of experts who were advising Mr Dobsoo at the time appeared to have been split oo the issue. In fact, by the time they published their recommendations six months later, the Committee on Medical Aspects of Food and Nutrition (Coma) had omitted Mr Dolson's specific recommendation, saying instead

that people who ate considerably more than average amounts of red meat unore than 140g a day) "might benefit from, and stould consider, a reduction in intake". Significantly weaker advice than the Government had previously issued.

than they are of the claims made by

pressure groups such as Friends of

the Earth and Greenpeace, who are

working to an agenda. In the pro-

paganda war over genetically mod-

ified foods, for instance, the

environmentalists are clearly

winning. Yet scientifically there is

a strong case for saying that GM

technology could provide genuine

benefits for bumankind. A type of

GM rice that is rich in iron, for

instance, could be grown commer-

cially in south-east Asia to belp

thousands of children suffering

long-term harm from iron-defi-

ciency in their diet. In Britain, how-

ever the public is too risk-aware,

especially over food, to accept GM

as a risk-free life. So many things

can happen between getting out of

bed in the morning and turning off

way inclined, make out a reasonable

case for banning that little-known

lethal weapon, the toothbrush.

Every year about 40 children have

to be admitted to hospital for fairly

serious surgical treatment after

injuring themselves while brushing

their teeth. Of course the bealth

benefits of clean teeth far outweigh

the potential hazards. For now, at

least, the toothbrush is safe.

There is, of course, no such thing

technology with open arms.

The point is that even experts can confuse those they are supposed to be advising. They can and do frequeotiy disagree over what constitutes a genuine risk to the public. This confusion can be misinterpreted as the advice goes from one committee to another and finally emerges as the official position. The saga over "mad cow"

disease has told us bow difficult it is for scientists to estimate risks for what amounts to virtually unknowable outcomes. For scientists to say "we don't actually know" is quite easy, but it is virtually impossible for a politician to admit ignorance public health and safety. This is why public anxiety peaked when the former Tory government's line of "no conceivable risk" of eating beef, proved to be so disastrously wrong, when the link was confirmed hetween BSE and the buman version of the brain disease.

It is now a rather lameotable fact that the public are more wary of scientists and government officials

RIGHT OF REPLY

NICK HERBERT



The chief executive of Business for Sterling responds to Diane Coyle's pro-euro article

THE PRO-euro case has surely hit rock bottom if its central charge is that "defenders [of sterling) are a group of elderly men". The average age in **Business for Sterling's office** is 28 and half the staff are women. But the allegation that ICM's poll of businesses only strowed a majority against the euro by "rigging" the figures is untrue. Even the raw data, giving big business 50 times more representation than it should have, shows a majority against the euro.

It is no surprise that the pro-euro lobby cried foul over the poll - last year Adair Turner of the CBI ruled "a completely random survey of businesses would be the ultimate gauge of firms' attitudes to UK membership of EMU", on the grounds that a "complication might arise in reconciling the survey results with the existing CBI position".

Eleven days after the launch of the euro, Adair Turner said that its future looked "promising". Since then, the euro has devalued by 10 per cent against the dollar. The European Commission has resigned and the new Commission's President has declared that EMU is a milestone in the process of European political unification. Diane Coyle may think that

the euro's first 100 days have been rocky. Others will conclude that Europe needs fundameotal reform before we could contemplate irrevocably handing over ecocomic control. Businesses have powerful reasons to oppose the euro. They fear the loss of control taxation; more regulation; higher employment costs. The fact that Diane Coyle

skis in the Alps and dances in Duhlin's nightclubs doesn't entitle ber to dismiss legitimate concerns shared by most of the business community. Her metropolitan sneers cheapen the debate.

Confessions of a peacemaker

AS DEMOCRATS await the republican reaction next Tuesday to the Hillsborough declaration on decommissioning weapons, they have a chance to read the inside story of the Belfast Agreement in this book by the chairman of the multi-party negotiations on Northern Ireland. Many commentators will come to rely on this lightly written volume, with its personal glimpses that at times taste saccharine, from the former US senator George Mitchell. Making Peace is the personal view of a key player - but politicians and officials, seeking a mention, will have to cope without an index.

FRIDAY POEM

CREATIVE COOKERY BY A J KRYSINSKI

She carved up the pieces of herself with a sharp knife, placed them in a pot and turned up the heat.

As the concoction bubbled she busied herself with an occasional poem; multiple births and television quiz shows.

When the potion was ready she drank it down to the last drop, which she smeared on her lips to add to the kiss she would give him

This poem comes from A J Krysinski's fifth collection, Journeywoman', published at £5.95 by Redbeck Press. 24 Aireville Road, Frizinghall.



FRIDAY BOOK

MAKING PEACE

BY SENATOR GEORGE MITCHELL, HEINEMANN, £17.99

ence to his ethnic background (Irish turned Lebanese, on his father's side). But when he admits that Nancy Soderberg in the White House, who had worked for Ted Kennedy, "initially formulated and shaped [his] role in Northern Ireland", the explains some of the mitial Unionist suspicion. The book is most useful on the

Senator Mitchell makes no refer-

drawing-up of the Mitchell principles on democracy and non-violence. The British did pressurise him into recommending an election, as an alternative to prior decommissioning. But John Major did not - as Sinn Fein maintains - bin the Mitchell report. The senator describes the then Prime Minister as taking "a temporary sidestep to get to negotiations by a different route... Major's strategy proved

to be workable". Mitchell does not quote his opinion of January 1996 – shared by his fellow chairmen, General de Chastelain of Canada and Prime Minister Holkeri of Finland - that there was "a clear commitment" by the paramilitaries to decommission during negotiations. Now, over three years later, we are still

waiting for Provo. Writing this book appears to have been therapeutic for a former Senate majority leader who had to listen unpaid to Irish talk, talk, talk. Arguments were repeated endlessly. Two Unionist parties walked out in July 1997. (Ian Paisley and Robert McCartney, says Mitchell, could have prevented an agreement if they had stayed.) A loyalist party was expelled temporarily during the London session, and Sinn Fein when the talks caravanned to

Dublin. Mitchell controlled his anger, enduring occasional sleepless nights. But this man with the American smile had iron teeth. He set the deadline of Easter 1998 for a final agreement.

In the last two weeks, Dutlin sought to enhance the Irish dimension. In London, Tony Blair tried to bold the line. Mitchell was upset at his schedule being interrupted. In the most revealing part of the book, be explains that he was forced to distribute a draft paper as his own even though - he claims - he knew that it would provoke the Ulster Unionists.

He attributes the rescue of the talks to Bertie Ahern. Having been advised not to back down, and grieving for his dead mother, the Taoiseach, walking the Dublin streets alone save for a security officer, made the call on his mobile which allowed the two premiers to negotiate. Although Mitchell does not say so, this story can have only one source.

Making Peace reveals that the talks were driven by the three independent chairmen, in cahoots with Mo Mowlam ("she swears a lot") and Paul Murphy, the unsung hero of Castle Buildings. (The Irish ministers and officials were semi-resident in Belfast.) This book confirms that, while the British government ruled out the solution of joint sovereignty early on, the Irish government - as the self-appointed guarantor of northern nationalists - achieved something approaching practical joint authority

in the conduct of the talks. Senator Mitchell provides pen por-The significance of Blair and Ahern in



Senator Mitchell with David Trimble

David Trimble - who opens and almost closes the book - was the decisive political leader. Without him, there would have been no Belfast Agreement. Surprisingly, there is very little on John Hume, and the major reference to Seamus Mallon - now deputy first minister designate - is a reported comment tum, slice off their balls... and they of being a member of the IRA.

wouldn't know it was done". Although Mitchell and his two colleagues were briefed by London and Dublin that Sinn Fein and the IRA were inextricably interlinked, the nice American senator gives the impression of naivety on this score. Gerry Adams is described correctly as never having been convicted of IRA mem-

the last few days is acknowledged. Whitelaw, But why describe Gerry Adams senior - who was injured in a shoot-out with the RUC in 1942 - as having been "jailed for five years as a result of his political activities"? Martin McGuinness is similarly excused: "no formal charges [have] ever been brought against him". This is not true. He served a prison sentence in that "he could take somehody's scro- the Republic, having been convicted

Despite this lapse, George Mitchell has performed an invaluable service to the people of Northern Ireland. If terrorism is brought to an end, be will be an Irish historical hero. Meanwhile, Making Peace remains a good read. AUSTEN MORGAN

The reviewer is writing The Belfast traits of most of the key negotiators. bership, despite being let out of in- Agreement: a practical legal onalyternment in 1972 to meet William sis for Sweet & Maxwell

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Red Norvo

THE XYLOPHONE is the most impersonal of all instruments. Its hushed tones allow little expression of emotion; it belongs to the lowbrow world of conjurers and poodles that do tricks on their hind legs. Or it did, until Red Norvo came along and seized the instrument by whatever it is you seize xylophones by.

Most of his best recordings were under his own name, but he graced countless performances by Benny Goodman, Woody Herman, Billie Holiday, Teddy Wilson, Dizzy Gillespie and Charlie Parker. He gave Charlie Mingus his first joh and by the sheer accomplishment of his playing Norvo struck fear into that aggressive man who otherwise feared no one.

"There are two kinds of xylophone players," said Eddie Condon. "There is Red Norvo and there are all the rest." How is it that the rest were damned to eternal obscurity while Red Norvo became one of the most respected jazz players in six decades of jazz? It is hecause, having achieved his virtuoso status on the instrument in the Thirties. Norvo refused to let his music stand still.

He began before swing, became famous with it and then went on to absorb and play the modern jazz of the Fifties and Sixties with an ease and imagination that has rightly marked him out as a giant of the music. Watching him play sometimes took one's mind off the music, for his bodily and facial expressions were unique. He was already hunched from a lifetime of bending over his instrument, and would often bend double when carried away. He held his hammers, two in each hand, in the form of an X, manipulating them with his thumbs and the joints of his fingers. His face was sometimes in seraphic repose, but more often bore a look of great pain, both conditions being responses to the beauty of the music.

His flair for harmonies and instinct for the structure of the melodies that he played with such dexterity opened out the bones of the music and, hecause he was in at the foundations, he was able to move with any of the changes that came as time went by.

His ooe-time bassist Red Mitchell said of him. "With Red it's always the future department. He gets impahent when he hears anything done the same way as usual. He wants to figure out right away something new to do with it, something different to play." Although he was a spontaneous improviser, Norvo was also a meticulous leader. His phenomenal trio of the Fifties would often rehearse a tune for two or three hours and, when he was called on to make an alhum with the group for Decca, the trio rehearsed for 10 days. In later life he was a model citi-

zen, but the conduct of his life in ear-lier days often didn't accord with his meticulous attention to the music. He had been a heavy drinker and an

sionally would vanish in pursuit of these occupations for days on end. On one occasion, when his boss was showing a top executive from the West Coast around the NBC studios in Chicago where Norvo was employed, they came across Norvo sleeping under a piano. When his boss shook him, Norvo barely responded. "Not now, honey," he mumbled. "Got to get to rehearsal in the morning." Later in the day Norvo became available for employment else-

where. By the late Fifties he had given

up drinking and smoking forever. He was born Kenneth Norville in Beardstown, Illinois, and the first time he heard jazz was on the riverboats that came up to the town from St Louis. One of the bands he heard included the cornettist Bix Beiderbecke. When he was eight his parents sent him to take piano lessons from the teacher who had taught his sister Portia. He took 12 lessons before the teacher realised that he couldn't read music. "I'd heen taking the lessons home," he said, and I'd say "Portia, you play it for me", and then she'd go over it once and I'd

'There are two kinds of xylophone player, said Eddie Condon. 'There is Red Norvo and there are all the rest'

have it. When the teacher found out she flipped. She hit my hand right across the knuckles and that was enough for me. I never went back. Since then, everything I know I taught myself. I learned how to read and write music just doing it.

The blocks on the xylophone were arranged in the same order as the keys on the piano. When he was 14 Norvo learned to play the marimba, a deeper but similarly insipld relative of the xylophone. He sold his pony to buy his first xylophone and while he was still at school his formidable memory for music allowed him to play almost anything on the instrument after he'd heard it just once.

A booking agent who heard him play got him a job touring with a marimba band and he soon hecame the featured soloist. The band broke up in Chicago and Norvo was given a joh in vaudeville by Paul Ash. leader of the orchestra at the Oriental Theatre.

Norvo played there for a appeared as Jerry and Her Baby Grands. On stage were four pianos on stands and Norvo, in sequins, and his xylophone on an even higher platform in the centre of the stage. On

enthusiastic pot smoker, and occa- one occasion, as the curtain went up. Norvo was aghast to see his vihraphone, which had become entangled with it, ascending towards the roof of the theatre.

Ash could never remember the name Norville, introducing Red to audiences as Norvick or Norwath. One night he stumbled on to Norvo and Red began using it as his name.

When the joh ended Norvo went out as a single, wearing a sash, hight hlack satin trousers and a fullsleeved blouse. He closed his act with a version of "Poet and Peasant" and also displayed new talents as a tap dancer. He worked at a radio station in Minneapolis for a year and then decided to move to Chicago, where he was hired to play in Victor Young's radio orchestra. He became involved with the Chicago jazz musicians, including Eddie Condon, Benny Goodman. Gene Krupa. Wingy Manone and Bud Freeman. We had nothing to eat hut music, gin and ozone sandwiches," Condoo recalled.

The locals were suspicious of Norvo's instrument until they heard him play jazz on it. His playing was inspired by that of the young black pianist Teddy Wilson. But, as was to he the case throughout his career, Norvo rarely took part in informal jazz sessions since his instrument was difficult to carry about and took so long to set up. "We played and imhibed, played and imbibed," said Norvo. "I was earning \$350 a week and was broke for six days of it." Norvo's health collapsed as a result of the drinking. Whilst he was in hospital the liquor wholesaler Florence Nettleton, a dignified lady who used to make deliveries in a Rolls-Royce. brought him three cases of whiskey as a get-well present.

When he recovered he made the higgest move of his career. Paul Whiteman worked at the NBC studios in Chicago and he asked Norvo to play in a series of shows he was putting together with his pianist Ferde Grofe.

Here Norvo met and in 1933 married Whiteman's vocalist Mildred Bailey, a very large lady with a light, sweet voice who was one of the best jazz singers of the Thirties. The two became known as "Mr and Mrs Swing" and made a series of hit records together hut soon fell out. When she threw an expensive new hat of his on the fire he took her mink stole and put it into the same fire. She responded by hurning his overcoat. It got worse. They were divorced in 1945, although Mildred Bailey continued afterwards to work with Norvo.

Norvo worked with his octet at the Hickory House on 52nd Street in k and made a remarkable series of chamber jazz records with a piano-less sextet that he formed during the middle Thirties. Some of thern had Benny Goodman playing bass clarinet. Norvo formed his



Parker and Dizzy Gillespie to join own larger group in 1936, using deft orchestrations by Eddie Sauter that enabled the xylophone to be heard

In 1942 he finally switched to the vibraharp, insisting on using the name given by its inventors to what is more usually known as the vihraphone. The xylophone consists of a set of wooden blocks placed over pipes of different sizes. The sound of a block heing struck resounds within the pipe. The vibraphone uses metal bars instead of blocks and has an electrically impelled vibratoproducing mechanism. "The vibes seem to hlend better," said Norvo. "and they re easier to play because the sustaining notes are produced at the touch of a foot pedal, whereas on the xylophone they had to be produced entirely by wrist action."

through the hig hand setting.

The last of Norvo's big bands broke up in 1944 when he decided to join Benny Goodman's Sextet, with which he continued to make potent recordings during the following years. In 1945 Norvo had a record date of his own and invited the then firehrand Bebop musicians Charlie

him. He blended easily into their new styles and his future in modern jazz was confirmed when he joined the trail-blazing Woody Herman First Herd in 1946. But it was the dynamics of the Herman music rather than its idiom that got to Norvo. "I felt drowned out," he said.

He settled in California in 1947 with his second wife, Eve, who was the sister of the trumpeter Shorty Rogers. Norvo played mainly with trios on the West Coast. In 1948 he recorded with the ill-fated bop clarinettist Stan Hasselgard and then in 1950 put together his famous trio with the guitarist Tal Farlow and bassist Charlie Mingus. Jimmy Raney and Red Mitchell later replaced Farlow and Mingus. Norvo set the pace for the fast interplay and almost telepathic playing and the group made some deeply satisfying albums between 1950 and 1955.

There were many reunions with Goodman in the ensuing years, including a European tour in 1959. He sion with Frank Sinatra. But in 1961

he was left deaf after an ear operation. His career took on a lower profile as a result. It is incredible that his persistence allowed him to overcome his almost total deafness and he toured Europe again in 1968 and, with George Wein's All Stars, in 1969. He continued to record and tour and during the Eighties made several more visits to Europe.

What remained of his ability to hear diminished and a serious stroke finally ended his career. His wife Eve died in 1992.

Red Norvo was one of the most consistently inventive jazz musicians of his time. The multitude of bis records will absorb enthusiasts and students of music for many years to come.

STEVE VOCE

Kenneth Norville (Red Norvo), xulophonist, vibraharpist and band-March 1908; married 1933 Mildred | which, until it closed in 1972, was re Bailey (died 1951; marriage dissolved 1945), 1946 Eve Rogers (died 1992; one daughter); died Santa Monica, California 6 April 1999.

Simha Sneh

SIMHA SNEH was Argentina's last ...! novelist and journalist in Yiddish Two weeks before he died, he had started on his last article on his ancient portable typewriter. He wanted to explain the meaning of Pesci ("Passover") to Argentines.

Such was one of the survivors of the 20th century. His life was filled with rich experience and narrowescapes. Only a few months before his death he presented his wife with a birth certificate to show that he was 90, and not 84 as she had believed He had forged the younger man's documents after deserting the Soviet army in 1943 to join the British army a few months later.

From the village in Pulawy, and life in pre-war Poland as a student and factory worker, he was called up by the Polish army as war loomed After the German invasion he fled to the Soviet army. In 1944 he joined the British army, with which he went to Palestine, Italy, Belgium and Holland. In 1947 he was discharged to find

he was alone in the world, with no family or country to go back to. He: decided to emigrate to Argentina: simply because an English soldier: simply because an English furthest had remarked that it was the furthest place from Europe. When Sneh went to the Argentine Consulate in Lordon he was rudely discouraged: "The woman said there was no more: room for Jews in Argentina." He flew? to Brazil, then to Paraguay, and took the river boat to Argentina's second

port, Rosario, where he landed with aise papers. Sneh described himself as a Yiddish writer in Spanish and Yiddish In his eighties he translated and pubished in Spanish six volumes of autobiography and several volumes of short stories, one of which, Bread and Blood (1977), received several. awards; it had been first published

in Ylddish. He had started to write in Yiddish. at the end of the Second World War for a magazine in London, where his first book was published by Narod Press. Before reaching Argentina he. had begun to write for the local Yiddish newspaper, Die Presse, as a correspondent. In 1949 he started work in the paper's newsroom in Buenos Aires and remained there until 1951:

It was possible then to make a rea! . 4 sonable living out of journalism in Yiddish as there were several new apers (Di Iddischen Titren, Der Vek, Modern Zerteg) which over the years disappeared. In 1961 he started the bilingual (Spanish and Yiddish) magazine Aleph, which published the leading Argentine Jewish authors of the time.

Sneh's greatest achievement however, was the magazine Roices leader: born Beardstown, Illinois 31 ("Roots"), launched in October 1968, garded as one of the best in the Argentine press by the likes of authors such as Gabriel García Márquez. At: Raices Sneh clashed with the late: Isaac Bashevis Singer, the 1975 Nobel prizewinner, who came to Argentina in 1970 curious about the local Jewish character.

The result was the story "The. Colony," later included in A Friend of Kafka and other stories (1980). "Like all big writers he had his smallness," Sneh said once. "Singer arrived in a country where he had. been told there were many Yiddishspeakers. He must have thought that they had all read him or at least knew. of him. But only a few knew his books and he was offended. So he wrote an unkind story about the local Jews and the neglect of their traditions."

However, Sneh was himself concerned about this and demanded of his own contributors that they become involved in giving Jewishness in Argentina a strong profile. The community was about 300,000 strong. in a country whose population was: 23 million. The end of Raices, as Argentina declined into the chaos of the Seventies, forced Sneh and his wife, Bejla, and their three children, to live in Israel. They returned to Buenos Aires after about two years. Until shortly before his death

Such wrote in Spanish for the Yiddish community paper, Mundo Israelita. His reputation as a survivor did not stem only from his life in wartorn Europe. In July 1994, he narrowly escaped death in the terrorist bombing of the Jewish community welfare association (Amia).

A metal shard lodged in his head and doctors decided, because of his age, that they would not operate. "I was leaning over my typewriter when Calder - was directed by Jack Shep- 1 felt a stab of pain in my head and a herd as revolutionary Tom Paine in shattering noise. I knew it was a bomb. I ran, somebody grabbed me and I fainted." Eighty-six people died in Sam Mendes's National Theatre that bombing, which shocked Argentina because people thought that

that did not happen there any more. Sneh's timing had been better on: the previous occasion, when terrorists demolished the Israel Embassy in Buenos Aires on 17 March 1992. He had left an embassy news hriefing half an hour before the bomb exploded. Twenty-nine people were killed that afternoon.

ANDREW GRAHAM-YOOLL

Simha Sneh, writer and journalist: ... born Pulawy, Poland 15 October 1908; married 1948 Bejla Bialy (one upon-Thames, Surrey 4 April 1999. Aires 4 April 1999. son, two daughters); died Buenos

Bob Peck

BOB PECK was an "unstarry" actor who hrought a compelling integrity and authority to his many screen and stage roles. Even after reaching a wide audience in the highly praised television nuclear thriller Edge of Darkness, the Yorkshireman remained shy and glad to be low-profile, preferring to get on with performing rather than giving interviews. Edge of Darkness, the 1985 BBC

serial written by the Z Cnrs creator Troy Kennedy Martin, changed the course of Peck's career and his life - at the age of 40. Until then, most of his time had been spent on stage. including nine years with the Royal Shakespeare Company. The six-part thriller, in which Peck

played a Yorkshire police detective investigating his own daughter's murder. became one of the most talked-ahout programmes of the 1980s and the corporation's fastest repeat when BBC1 started a rerun just 10 days after it had finished on BBC2. Its story of government collusion in the production of phitonium at a secret nuclear plant struck a chord two years after President Reagan's "Star Wars" speech, at a time when people were beginning to question Britain's alliance with America.

Despite this exposure, and a Bafta Best Actor award. Peck ruminated that he could "still shamhle round Sainsbury's looking as nondescript as the next man" and insisted that he simply wanted to be seen as "someone who is able to play a character and make him look ordinary". He continued to do so in a thoroughly accomplished manner through more than two dozen screen roles and further stage performances with the National

Theatre and Young Vic companies. It was a career to which Peck, born in 1945 and hrought up in Leeds, had been drawn at school. At the age of 15, he joined the National Youth Theatre in London hut described himself as "completely unhappy and lonely" during the sixweek experience, putting it down to his inability to mix with people.

However, he still enjoyed acting and, while studying at Leeds College of Art, performed in amateur dramatics. After the playwright Alan Avckbourn directed the society in a production of his play Mr Whatnot. he invited the teenager to spend the summer as an actor and assistant stage manager at the Scarborough Library Theatre, of which he had just become artistic director. Avckbourn recalled discovering

"an actor of strength, extraordinary natural technical shility, wit and truth". As a result, Peck made his professional acting début in Scarborough and subsequently performed in repertory theatre in Exeter. Returning to London, in 1974, he

landed a part in Lindsay Anderson's production of Life Class, hy the Wakefield miner's son David Storey. He also gained film experience as a police inspector in Royal Flash (1975) and a minister in Bird of Prey 2 (1984). His two contrasting roles in the celebrated RSC four-act. ninehour production of Charles Dickens's "Yorkshire novel", Nicholas Nickleby (1981) - John Browdie and Sir Mulberry Hawk, the hero and the villain - were seen in the television film The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby (1982), screened in Channel 4's first weeks on the air.

Having married the actress Jill Baker and started a family. Peck decided to leave the security of the RSC to seek more television roles, partly in the hope of spending more time with his family. "I realised I could stay there for a long time and I would never know whether I could have made it as a TV or film actor," he explained.

He insisted he wanted to be seen as 'someone who is able to play a character and make him look ordinary'

The play, which drew on Storey's own experience of art college, opened there before transferring to the West End. Peck was clearly on his way and. after a spell at Birmingham Rep, he joined the Royal Shakespeare Company at Stratford-upon-Avon for a nine-year stint (1975-84) during which his roles included Macbeth, Iago, Kent, Malvolio, Caliban and Lear, and he worked with directors such as Ronald Eyre and Trevor Nunn.

While with the RSC, Peck made his first screen appearances. He could be seen credited simply as "Customer" in the Ronnie Barker sitcom Open All Hours and as "Ron" in an episode of Rising Damp. More significantly, he acted in Alan Bennett's television play Sunset Across the Bay (1975), directed by Stephen Frears, and played Macduff in a television production of Macbeth (1979). repeating one of his RSC roles.

He was fortunate enough to walk into the part of single-parent Detective Inspector Ron Craven in Edge of Darkness, alongside Joanne Whalley as his radical scientist daughter Emma. Troy Kennedy Martin had envisaged John Thaw in the starring role. But the director, Martin Campbell, favoured an unknown actor and opted for Peck. The actor's brother was, in fact, a policeman in Leeds, but Peck spent two days with the Bradford force in the course of

his research to see how they worked. However, he refused to mutate into a radiation-rayaged tree over hundreds of years after falling to a sniper's bullet, as the end of Kennedy Martin's script demanded. Peck won the argument and, instead, screamed

his daughter's name, "Emma!" The serial, whose prophesies included a Gulf War, was watched by 4.5 million viewers on BBC2 and 8 his hest "dour" mode as the puri-

million on BBC1. As well as winning Peck a Best Actor award from Bafta. Edge of Darkness was presented with the Best Drama honour.

Although Peck returned to the stage hy starring at the National Theatre in Alan Ayckbourn's A Chorus of Disapproval and Athol Fugard's The Road to Mecca tooth 1985), offers to act on screen followed thick and fast. Most notably, he played a re-

pressed don in Simon Gray's television play After Pilkington (1987) and Oante in Channel 4's A TV Dante: the Inferno contos I-VIII (1989), directed by Peter Greenaway and Tom Phillips, starring John Gielgud and reuniting Peck with Joanne Whalley. Other parts included a doctor rejected by the woman he loves in Children Crossing (1989), a Royal Marines major in the Faiklands in An Ungentlemanly Act (1992), Gradgrind in Peter Barnes's adaptation of Hord Times for BBC Schools (1994) and Shylock in The Merchant of Venice (1996).

As in Edge of Dorkness, an "awkward" theme was explored when Peck played a man whose cosy life with a new girlfriend is shattered when he is menaced by his estranged wife's lover in Mick Ford's One Wost Out (1989). He made significant contributions to Catherine Cookson's The Black Velvet Gown (1991), as a reclusive former teacher who gains a hold on his widowed housekeeper, Centrepoint (1992), in the rare role of a villain, Natural Lies (1992), acting a happily married man who discovers that his first love has killed herself in mysterous circumstances, and The Scold's Bridle

(1998), once again playing a detective. Peck also found himself in demand with film directors for both starring and cameo roles, although his hest pictures were mostly those in which he took the lead. In the writer-director Andrew Grieve's much admired production of On the Black Hill (1987), based on Bruce Chatwin's novel, Peck was in



Peck as a Yorkshire police detective in Edge of Darkness, 1985

woman who has stepped down the social scale to marry him. The finely observed drama The

Kitchen Toto (1987) featured Peck as a British chief of police during the final years of colonial rule in Kenya in the Fifties, while Steven Spielberg cast him as the game warden Robert Muldoon in the dinosaurs yarn Jurassic Park (1993).

More disappointingly, he acted in pictures such as the science-fiction drama Slipstream (1989), a Lord of the Flies remake (1990), Surviving Picasso (1996, alongside Anthony Hopkins) and Smilla's Feeling for Snow (1997, from Peter Høeg's bestselling novel).

In between film and television work. Peck returned to the stage in director David Thacker's preductions of two Arthur Miller plays at the Young Vic Theatre - Two Way Mir-

tanical Welsh-farmer husband of a ror (1989), with Helen Mirren, and The Price (1990), alongside David In Lambeth (1989) at the Donmar Warehouse, and played Goldberg in production of Harold Pinter's The Birthday Party (1994). Also at the National in 1994, he played the overbearing patriarch John Rutherford in Githa Sowerby's 1912 Rutherford and Son, as a "north-country Lear, craggy, ruthless and utterly self-centred"; Paul Taylor in The Independent described his performance as "magnificently overbear-

ing and authentic". ANTHONY HAYWARD

Robert Peck, actor: born 23 August 1945; married 1982 Jill Baker tone son. two daughters); died Kingston-

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FRIDAY REVIEW dependent 9 April 1999 Simha Sneh

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tion, was the best man at Rikard and

Milica's wedding, while Ivan Lorkovic,

the NNS leader and the leading Croat in the Coalition, was Vane's godfather.

early 1920s, Vane moved to London,

where his mother's second husband,

Bozo Banac, lived and ran a shipping

business, which included Yugoslav

Lloyd, then Yugoslavia's largest shipping

company. Banac, a native of Dubrovnik

and a believer in the Yugoslav unity, had

in 1914 placed the whole of his mer-cantile fleet under Serbia's flag and had helped the creation and activities of the

Yugoslav Committee, a group of Habs-

burg Croat, Slovene and Serb politicians

pated in the creation of the first Yugoslav

state, formed on 1 December 1918,

Vane Ivanovic was a living proof that Yu-

goslavia was not artificially created by

the Great Powers at the Paris Peace

Conference in 1919-20, as it is today

tempting to claim. The family back-

ground clearly contributed to Ivanovic

developing a strong Yugoslav identity,

while life in Britain and the

education he received in Britain (West-

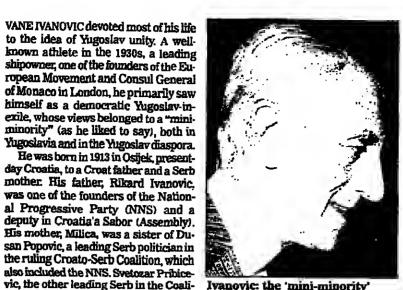
minster School and Peterhouse, Cam-

Because most of his family partici-

and intellectuals based in London.

After his parents' divorce in the

Vane Ivanovic



Ivanovic: the 'mini-minority'

bridge, where he read Economica)

made him a staunch Anglophile. He was a member of the Yugoslav team at the 1936 Olympic Games held in Berlin, running the 110-metre and 400metre hurdles. He was the undisputed Yugoslav champion in both disciplines throughout the 1930s. In 110m he reached the semi-finals in Berlin and in 400m hurdles he held the Yugoslav record for 17 years, from 1936 until 1953.

When the Second World War broke out, Ivanovic had, acting on behalf of his ailing stepfather, placed 10 out of the 22 steamers owned by Yugoslav Lloyd in the service of the British. Thus, Banac and Ivanovic were the first shipowners from a neutral country to join the Allies. After Yugoslavia was invaded by Germany Italy and their external and internal allies in April 1941, Ivanovic organised other Yugoslav shipowners in the Yugoslav Shipping Committee. Its aim was to prevent the capture of the Yugoslav mercantile fleet still in neutral waters by the Nazis.

In the summer of 1943 Ivanovic joined the Yugoslav section of the Political Warfare Executive (PWE), as most of the Yugoslav Lloyd fleet had either been sunk

or captured. In his memoirs (LX: memoirs of o Yugoslav, 1977), which should be a compulsory reading for anyone studying the history of Yugoslavia, Ivanovic explains why he did not return to the occupied country to join Tito's or Mihailovic's resistance movements: "I had no desire to forget the enemy and engage in a fratricidal war among my fellow countrymen, especially as I did not wholly agree with either side."

He spent the rest of the war between London, Bari and Cairo and was demobilised as a Major in the British army. Because of the Communist seizure of power in Yugoslavia, Ivanovic remained in Britain as a political refugee. The irony is that the same country Ivanovic joined in 1939, when Tito was a littleknown General Secretary of the small and illegal Communist Party of Yuoslavia and a puppet of Moscow, then allied to Germany, had provided a sustained help to the consolidation the regime which had proclaimed him an enemy of the people". After the war Ivanovic resumed a suc-

cessful career in shipping, despite most of the pre-war fleet being destroyed or nationalised by the new Yugoslav authorities. He was the founder and the first president of the Association of Free Citizens of Yugoslavia, a charity, financed mainly by himself, designed to help other Yugoslav emigres. He continued to help his fellow countrymen until his death, sponsoring a number of postgraduate students who fled the 1990s conflict in Yugoslavia.

Vane Ivanovic was one of the founders of Jean Monnet's European Movement, beading the Yugoslav Committee for the European Movement for more than three decades. In 1967 he was appointed to the post of Consul General of Monaco in London. He also wrote several books on spearfishing, of which the 1975 edition of Modern Spearfishing remains a classic.

Yet be will most likely be remembered by historians for his role in a group of

democracy as the alternative to Tito's Yugoslavia. The Democratic Alternative, founded in 1963, included, besides lvanovic, well-known inter-war Yugoslav politicians, such as Bozidar Vlatic of the Democratic Party, Ilija Jukic and Branko Peselj. both of the Croatian Peasant Party, as well as a group of younger, pro-Yugoslav emigres, such as Desimir Tosic and Adil Zulfikarpasic.

حكدا من الاجل

Ivanovic was the spiritus movens and one of the key members of the group. The final memorandum of the Democratic Alternative, produced in 1982, argues that Yugoslavia can only survive as a democratic community of sovereign nations, and that any other scenario would almost inevitably lead to a civil war. Vane Ivanovic lived long enough to witness the awful fulfilment of this prophecy. Fortunately, he was not conscious during the last two weeks of his life, so he remained unaware of the latest Yugoslav tragedy. It is sad and symbolic that Ivanovic died at the time when the final remnants of his former country are being destroyed in another

brutal civil war and by Nato bombs. His last wish was to donate a large private library and numerous paintings and sculptures to the former Yugoslavs. Yet, neither Zagreb nor Belgrade were particularly interested in what would have been a memorial to Ivanovie's tolerant and democratic Yugoslavism. The Yugoslavia of Vane Ivanovic's ideals never materialised, but it was never given a proper chance. All those who knew him will be immensely saddened by his death. They will remember him as the most charming, generous and tol-erant person and will feel honoured to have known him and to have belonged to his "mini-minority".

DEJAN DJOKIC

Ivan Stevan Ivanovic, athlete, shipowner, political activist, diplomat, writer and philanthropist: born Osijek, Austria-Hungary 9 June 1913; married 1939 June Fisher (two sons, one Yugoslav émigrés who advocated daughter); died London 4 April 1999.



LINGUISTIC NOTES

GEOFFREY SAMPSON

Collapse of the language nativists

A BUZZWORD of 1990s pop psychology is "language instinct". According to Steven Pinker's best-selling book of that title, mankind inherits knowledge of language structure. Just as the patterning of a peacock's tail is mapped in peacock genes, so Pinker and others claim that the fine detail of phrases, clauses and sentences is mapped in human genes. These "linguistic nativists" urge that we do not really learn our mother tongue. In a sense we are

born knowing most of it. It sounds an odd idea; but the reading public is buying into it. Richard Dawkins's verdict is typical of many: "Reading Steven Pinker's book is one of the biggest favours I've ever done my brain." Yet, if one asks whether the linguistic nativists have a sound case, the answer must be a resounding no. It is not just that their logic is often shaky. Worse, again and again their factual evidence

is just not true.

Take one of Steven Pinker's most impressive points: the discovery, in Essex in 1990, of a family of "language mutants". A paper in Nature reported that members of this family suffer from an inherited disability which prevents their acquiring grammar, When one of them manages to learn a plural, say "books", he learns it as a simple vocabulary element, with no coocept of a relationship with "book". If gramexpect to find occasional grammatical mutants.

But, shortly after the first paper appeared in Nature, the family was looked at again. It turned out that their disability was not specific to language. The family had intellectual handicaps across the board; yet there was clear evidence that they did know the very grammar rules which Pinker said they were genetically incapable of mastering. So much for "mutant grammar genes".

Or consider another point, about the way we form compound words. Pinker notes that it seems normal to describe a house as "miceinfested" but not as "ratsinfested", and he infers a genetic constraint which prevents our coining compounds from plurals unless the plural is irregular (like "mice").

But there is no such constraint. The Swedish linguist Stig Johansson wrote a whole book in 1980 about English compounds based on phirals; we may not say "rats-infested," but newspapers do write about "fares-cutting airlines". Jobansson found that Britons were happier with such phrases than Americans; so we are dealing with cultural habits,

oot hiological machinery. Every argument put forward by today's linguistic nativists collapses when soberly examined. But these writers are not wholly to blame. They are only restating, in 1990s terms, a theory advocated 30 mar is in our genes, we might years earlier by Noam Chomsky. Chomsky's towering reputation leaves people reluctant to tangle with him.

Yet, if one asks what Chomsky's evidence was, one finds the same yawning gap between conclusions and data. In book after book for over 20 years, Chomsky argued that certain aspects of question formation must be innate; learning the rule from experience would depend on encountering particular varieties of question which, be believed, were vanishingly rare. Geoffrey Pullum of the University of California recently decided to look at the facts. He found that, in practice, about one in eight questions are the type that Chomsky assumed were

virtually non-existent. Chomsky made his mark as a political radical; many took his linguistic theories on trust. Steven Pinker has a different but equally powerful special factor going for him: he is a marvellous, inspired wordsmith. Reading The Language Instinct is such a pleasurable experience that people quite naturally want ts message to be true.

But it isn't. No serious argument has ever been put forward that our genes give us knowledge of language. Languages are cultural products, learned by successive generations from scratch.

Geoffrey Sampson is the nuthor of Educating Eve: the language instinct debate' (Cassell £14.99)

Michael Manuel

a new production of Gluck's opera Al-A STAGE director at the Metropolitan Opera, New York, for 10 years, Michael Manuel will be chiefly remembered for his involvement in the short-lived Metropolitan Opera National Company, which was established to bring opera to every corner of the United States and to give young singers, directors, designers and conductors a chance to learn their trade outside the glare of publicity in New York. Unfortunately, during its two years of existence, the National Company lost several million dollars, at a time when the parent company was itself in dire trouble after the move to the new opera house in Lincoln Center. Something had to be jettisoned and it was not going to be the Met itself.

Michael Manuel was born in London, and after a year at the Royal Academy of Music, 1944-45, in 1948 joined the Covent Garden Opera Gater the Royal Opera) as an assistant stage manager. Later he transferred to the Ballet (then still known as the Sadler'a Wells Ballet) as stage manager

In 1957 he went to New York to join the Met, first as an executive stage manager, then as stage director. In December 1960 he both directed and designed

ceste for the Metropolitan debut of the great American soprano Eileen Farrell, with Nicolai Gedda as Admète. The following year he restaged Margaret Webster's production of Simon Boccanegra; Caspar Neber's production of Berg's Wozzeck, with Hermann Uhde in the title role and Eleanor Steber as Marie; he also rehearsed La forza del destino, with Farrell, Richard Tucker and Robert Merrill, who was taking over the role of Don Carlo from Leonard warren, who had collapsed on sta ing Act 2 the previous season and died shortly afterwards.

The following year Manuel directed Gluck's Orfeo ed Eurydice with Kerstin Meyer and Lucine Amara, and Richard Strauss's Elektra with Gerda Lammers in the title role and Regina Resnik as Klytemnestra. The casts at the Met in those days were mouth-watering. During the summer season at the Zoo Gardens in Cincinnati, he directed Madama Butterfly, Solome, La Bohème and Tosca.

Shortly afterwards Manuel became embroiled in the planning and preparation for the Metropolitan Opera Na-

Metropolitan board was divided over the wisdom of such a venture. The president of the board, Anthony Bliss, was an enthusiastic supporter, while Rudolf Bing, the general manager of the Met, was strongly against the project. Another committed supporter was Mrs De Witt Wallace, of Reader's Digest, who kept announcing wistfully (according to Bing himself), "If only I could have heard Rigoletto, when I was a girl in . . .

The idea was to perform unusual operas not in the Met's repertory and farworks in unit mujar productions Walter Felsenstein, the renowned director of the Komische Opera in East Berlin, was invited to oversee the productions, but was oot granted a visa by the US authorities. Finally, Rise Stevens, the famous American mezzo-soprano, who had just retired from singing, was appointed director, with Manuel as administrator. Singers and conductors were auditioned and, after more than a year of preparatory work, in the late summer of 1965 the company spent two months in rehearsal in a newly built hall in Indianapolis. There the tour began, with Carmen, Madama Butterfly, La Cenertional Company. From the start the entole and Carlisle Floyd's Susannah.

The first season of the National Company was a fair success, with 248 performances in 72 cities over nine months. However, it lost more than \$500,000. The second seasoo was a disaster. The operas performed, La traviata, La Bohème, The Morriage of Figuro and Britten's The Rape of Lucretia, were less popular, and attendance figures fell steadily. The Met, "bleeding cash from every pore in Lincoln Center", as Bing put it, had to advance a million dollars to the National Company in order to pay its debts. The etronolitan board voted overwheln ingly to cancel the third season, planned to Include Tosca, Rigoletto and The Barber of Seville. Mrs De Witt Wallace personally offered a million dollars and other sponsors also collected money, but it was rejected. The Metropolitan Opera

National Company was disbanded. Michael Manuel, presumably fed up with opera, became a researcher and script writer for educational television and video productions.

ELIZABETH FORBES

Michael Mnnuel, opera director and writer: born London 9 September 1928; died Fleming. New Jersey 5 April 1999.

The baby thrown out with the bathwater

FOR 15 years of my life, I would say the best part of my working life, I shared an office in Tudor Street with a team of people who were mutually like-minded. We were doing something in which we believed. We were trying to keep Punch alive, against some stiff competition it has to be said; from the coming of free Sunday supplements and a tremendous change in English journalism - and the fact that Punch had a fairly

ancient traditional readership.

When we were bought by United Newspapers they understandably wanted a more modern magazine and we tried for some time to convert ourselves by stealth, because we took the view that Punch could not be drastically or suddenly changed. Indeed, we had tried that occasionally, and the result was always disastrous. The readers did not like sudden change. And I suppose the saddest

day of my life was the culmination of quite a long period of time over which it became quite clear that the magazine was going to be changed, not any longer by stealth, not any longer by tact or negotiation, or by gradual progression towards a more modern future but was going to be changed radically. and drastically, and overnight. And that realisation dawned on me just over a year ago, I would say in November 1988.

This may sound very hysterical or emotional, but I now can't pick up Punch. I believe 180 years of tradition has been thrown away overnight for no great benefit. They decided to sack the ed-

itor. David Taylor, and bring in Details of synagogue sera young editor, of whom I know very little, and had oever a place to live and work, and as

¥ THE INDEPENDENT ARCHIVE

9 APRIL 1990 Sheridan Morley lost

more than a job when he resigned from 'Punch', he lost a home. He explains to Danny Danziger

worked with, so this is not in any way a personal attack. My feeling is that what they bave now done - and I hope that I am wrong - 1 think they have killed the magazine by throwing out baby and the hathwater.

And the sadness for me was to see one's home vandalised, just in the way you can't bear to go back to a house where somebody has bought it and changed all the bloody furniture and all the wallpaper and the curtains, if they have done it as I believe unsympathetically and with no reference to the past.

Punch was my home. I used to go in every morning. I used to park the car there. There was a coffee machine. I guess one is spoilt by an office somehow. I miss the community, I miss Alan Coren, I miss David Taylor. I miss those men every morning. We somebow managed to run a magazine and to run our own lives. We wrote books in that office, we did other jobs in Fleet Street. This was all perfectly above board. because the deal with Punch was that they couldn't pay us very well but they would give us

Words

long as we got the magazine right we could do our own things as well.

Punch was a kind of daily community that I was not getting at home, Punch was a place to go and just to gossip, to natter, to talk. I don't like being alone, I don't function well alone. Alan Coren says the same thing. His wife goes out to work, she's an anaesthetist so be is now alone on the typewriter, and he doesn't like it.

We tend to phone each other up most mornings. Why? Because we no longer share that office. It wasn't open-plan, we all had separate rooms down that corridor, but when a piece was going badly, when you couldn't get the words right, you could come out and shout down the corridor, "Help", and they would get you a cup of coffee and say, "Don't worry, we're having a bad day too!" And they took that away from me.

All the wives, and Ruth whom I live with, say: "Look, for God's sake, forget it; you've had a very good 15 years, you did the best you could, the magazine has now gone, stop thinking about it, and please stop talking about it." Trouble is, none of us can. Because of those 15 years, we all still meet - and talk about Punch - every Wednesday morning. I now freelance, I live at bome, I'm very happy there, I love working at home. It's getting better all the time we're a year away oow, the pain is a lot less. But it's taking a long time. You could say a year for 15 years is not that unusual, but it is painful, yes.

'The Worst of Times', from the Living page of The Independent', Monday 9 April 1990

"Hideous refers to nat-

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

IN MEMORIAM

ABU-HAKIMA: Ahmad Mustafa, Professor, scholar, historian and world authority on Eastern Arabia. Born 28 August 1923 in Abbasiyya, Palestine, died S April 1938 in Ottawa, Canada. A truly contented man, wherever he traversed he brought optimism and love to the lives of many many people around the many, many people around the world. Always remembered in our hearts, thoughts and prayers. Family and friends.

SWAMINATHAN: Malati in everloving memory of our dear sister and aunt who left us this day, 9 April 1988. Forever in our hearts Venka, Bette, Nikhil, Ayesha.

> ROYAL **ENGAGEMENTS**

The Duke of Kent visits the Purdey Factory at Feigate Mews, London We.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; Nijmegen Company Grenadier Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Irish Guards.

BIRTHDAYS

Mr Severiano Ballesteros golfer, 42; M Jean-Paul Belmondo, actor, 66; Sir Simon Brown, a Lord Justice of Appeal, 62; Mr Eric Clarke MP, 66; Sir Brian Cubbon, former senior civil servant, 71; Mr Iain Duncan-Smith MP, 45; The Most Rev Domenico Enrici, former Apostolic Nuncio, 90; Lord Fitt, former Belfast MP, 73; Miss Hannah Gordon, actress, 58; Sir Hew Hamilton-Dalrymple, Captain-General, the Queen's Body Guard for Scotland, 73; Mr Mike Hancock MP, 53; Mr Roger Harrison, deputy chairman, Capital Radio and chairman, Toynbee Hall, 66; Sir Graham Hills, former Principal, Strathclyde University, 73; Mr Peter Hinchcliffe, ambassador to Jordan, 61; Mr Eric Illsley MP, 44; Mr Tom Jackson, former trade union leader, 74; The Hon Bernard Jenkin MP, 40; Mr Neil Jenkins, tenor, 54; Mr Alan Knott, cricketer, 53; Mr Tom Lehrer, songwriter and lecturer, 71; Mr Christopher Long, ambassador to Hun-

gary, 61; Mrs Laura Moffatt

MP, 45; Mr Peter Moores.

O'Brien, racehorse trainer,

former chairman, Little-

woods, 67; Mr Vincent

82; Sir Michael Ogden QC, 73; Sir Michael Palliser, former Head of the Diplomatic Service, 77; Sir Michael Richardson, vice-chairman. **NatWest Markets Corporate** Finance, 74; Mr Martin Rogers, Director, Farmington Institute for Christian Studies, 68; Professor Richard Rose, Professor of Public Policy, Strathclyde University, 66; Mr Tony Sib-son, middleweight boxer, 41; Miss Valerie Singleton, broadcaster, 62; Sir Michael Somare, first prime minister of Papua New Guinea, 63; Professor David Walker QC, Emeritus Professor of Law, Glasgow University, 79; Sir Richard Young, former chairman, Boosey and Hawkes, 85.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Isambard Kingdom Brunel, engineer, 1806; Charles-Pierre Baudelaire, poet, 1821; Eadweard Muybridge (Edward James Muggeridge), photographer and inventor, 1830; Sir Gerald Festus Kelly, artist, 1879; Paul Bustill Robeson, actor and singer, 1898; Hugh Todd Naylor Gaitskell, statesman, 1906; Victor Vasarely, Op Art painter,

1908; Sir Robert Murray Helomann, dancer, 1909 Deaths: Lorenzo de' Medici

("The Magnificent"), statesman, 1492; François Rabelais, writer, 1553; Francis Bacon, Viscount St Albans, statesman, 1626: Simon Fraser, 12th Baron Loval, Scottisb Jacobite, the last man to be beheaded in England 1747; Jacques Necker. financier and statesman. 1804; Dante Gabriel Rossetti, poet and pre-Raphaelite painter, 1882; Edward Thomas, poet, killed in action 1917; Mrs Patrick Campbell (Beatrice Stella Tanner). actress, 1940; Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian, executed 1945; Cyril Edwin Mitchinson Joad philosopher, 1953; Frank Lloyd Wright, architect, 1959; Sir Basil Henry Biackwell, bookseller and publisher, 1984.

On this day: Botany Bay. Australia, was discovered by Captain James Cook, 1770; the National Gallery, London, was opened, 1838; the Battle of Arras began, 1917: Latvia proclaimed ber independence, 1918; the Suez Canal was cleared for all shipping. 1957; Georgia voted to secede from the Soviet Union, 1991.

Gaucherius, St Hugh of Rouen, St Mary Cleophas, St Uramar and St Waldetrudis or Waudru.

Today is the Feast Day of St

LECTURES

National Gallery: Colin Wiggins. "Reading (i): reading Poussin", 1pm. Tate Gallery: Jonathan Blackwood, "Cher Moitre: Jacob Epstein and Gaudier-Brzeska", 1pm. British Museum: Sam Moor head, "A Sweep Through Greek Sculpture", 11.30am. Gresbam College, London EC1: Professor Colin Pillinger, "Eclipse", 1pm.

> SYNAGOGUE SERVICES

vices to be beld tomorrow may be obtained by telephon ing the following. Sabbath begins in London at 7.32pm. United Synagognes: 0181-343 8989. Federation of Synagognes: 0181-202 2263. Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues: 0171-580 1663. Reform Synagogues of Great Britain: 0181-349
4731. Spanish and Portuguese
Jews Congregation: 0171-289
2573. New London Synagogue
(Masorti): 0171-328 1026.

"YOU'RE A hideous child!" So a mnther jocularly remarked in a store, nnly to be asked, "What does hideous

CHRISTOPHER **HAWTREE** mean?" If nne needs gradatinns of meaning, George hideous, adj. Crabb (1778-1851) is the man.

He failed medicine (dis-Magdalen Hall; shyness was an obstacle at the Bar. like of corpses), exchanged bookselling for the clergy, but he wrote manuals on property – and a dictionary, Eng-lish Synonymes Explained. had doubts; taught; at 43, he graduated in Maths from

ural objects, and the ghastly more properly that which is supernatural . . . A mask with manstrous grinning features looks hideous; a human form with a visage of death-like paleness is ghastly." Grim is the countenance; grisly, colour. The mnther was right: only hideous means sound.

Post Gazette announcements to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, telephone 0171-2:13 2012 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2011) or fax to 0171-293 2010. Please give a daytime telephone number. The acting head of the Gambino family has pleaded guilty to racketeering. A true wiseguy would never, ever admit the existence of the mafia. What's the underworld coming to? By Peter Pringle

The mozzarella mobsters

sters just ain't what they used to he. John "Jackie Nose" D'Amico, Dominic "Fat Dom" Borghese and Willie Marshall, the "twobit leg-breaker", will not be appearing as turncoat "rats" in a New York court next week to give evidence against John A "Junior" Gotti, reputed head of the Gambino crime syndicate. The reason: Gotti copped a plea this week, admitting that he had "conspired with a group of individuals forming an association", the requisite legal language for a mob confession.

Facing 18 years in jail for racketeering, the 35-year-old son of John "Dapper Don" Gotti, the most flamboyant crime boss of recent times, Gotti "Junior" couldn't take the heat. He settled for a guilty plea and six to seven years inside. It's one more sign that today's Italian mafia is mozzarella compared with the mobsters of yesteryear.

Even the charges against "Junior" were mush when put up against traditional "family" pur-suits. "Junior" was accused of shaking down an upscale strip joint, running a gambling ring, robbing a drug dealer and, wait for it, fibbing on a home mortgage refinancing application. One measly count charged him with taking a cut from the strip club's coatroom.

Compare that with what his father was up to: organising the murder by a "hutton man" (hired assassin) of Paul Castellano, who was gunned down outside Sparks Steak House in mid-town Manhattan on a December evening in 1985. At the time of his demise, Castellano was head of the Gambino syndicate, a lofty moh position immediately assumed by the elder Gotti.

What made this murder especially daring was that it was not agreed to by the other dons, a break with Sicilian family tradition which says to never kill a boss without permission of the other bosses. Gotti Senior survived this disrespect, until the Feds pounced and put him away for life. No one dared seek revenge - not even Castellano's son, Joseph. Joseph, now 60, did not go into the family business. He's a pizza-maker with heart trouble who wants to live out his days in peace in Florida, and die in his own bed.

More and more, it seems, the sons of mobsters are forsaking the family business to graduate from law school, become doctors, or play by the rules in a legitimate business.

Such stories have the crimebusters patting themselves on the hack - but it also has them just a little bemused. "What the mob does today is kid's stuff, it's like a street gang," said James Kalistrom, who used to run the FBI's New York office concerned with crime syndicates. "It still has a lot of had characters, but these are different people, different times."

From its birth in the mid-1800s to the beginning of this century, the



John Gotti Jr. he has a weight problem, he dresses badly. He drives a mini van. Can this be the son of the Dapper Don (below)? AP

American Matia was strictly local, and inflexible. Street gangs controlled the ballot box on behalf of politicians who in turn gave protection to saloons, hrothels and gambling houses. The Mafia infiltrated Tammany Hall, the Irish-led political machine that dominated New York politics. But Mafia recruits were Italians and business expansion was limited.

With Prohibition in the Twenties. organised crime became more sophisticated and neighbourhood hoodlums became national businessmen. With it was horn the

ran organised crime in New York -

the Genovese, Bonanno, Gambino,

Profaci, and Lucchese, had enor-

mous power. Their leaders included

Lucky Luciano, Meyer Lansky,

Frank Costello and Joe Adonis.

Luciano began eliminating the competition, and also the older

generation. His family was dubbed

the "family".

"Murder Inc" by the New York tabloids and became the source of both fiction and films. Politicians and police officers launched their careers on smashing gangs. In the Thirties. Mayor LaGuardia banned Costello's slot machines, and Thomas Dewey put Luciano in jail for his prostitu-

The repeal of Prohibition in 1933 forced these syndicates back into gambling, labour-racketeering and, eventually, drugs. They also became big players in the concrete and construction industry, garbage, the garment district, and the vegetable

fought brutally for their declining of an era. The Mafia's image was by turf, and by the late-Sixties Carlo Gambino emerged as the dominant organised crime leader in the city the died of natural causes in 1976).

Joey Gallo, imprisoned during a struggle with the Profacis, was freed in 1971 and wanted to hring blacks into the family, but he was shot dead in Little Italy a year later. Carmine Galante, who had taken over the Bonanno family, was killed at a restaurant in Brooklyn in 1979.

Then Congress passed Rico-the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization laws - which made it

'Only a real gavene [lowlife] wants for his kids what we got ... idiots and wannabes are who's attracted to this kind of life now' .

and fish markets. By the Forties they had cotonised Tammany Hall; you had to pay a certain percentage of your money to the mob, no matter

who you were. From 1952, district political leaders were chosen by direct election. and the Mafia started losing political power: by the end of the decade the ties to political leaders had been broken. The ageing bosses

easier to prosecute the Mafia hy loosening the laws on criminal conspiracies, and giving prosecutors the ability to impose heavy fines and seize assets of criminal enterprises.

Mario Puzo's novel. The Godfather, with its depiction of the dons as guardians of ethnic pride - oldfashioned men of honour who supplied needed, if morally ques-tionable, services - came at the end theo sullied by its involvement in the heroin epidemic of the Seventies. In those days, each "family" had

three to four hundred members and another 1,000 associates to do the don's bidding. The don himself could pick up \$100,000 a month from personal shakedowns on construction sites. "You just don't find anything happening like that today," said Kallstrom.
In the Eighties, New York City's federal prosecutor, the budding

mayor Rudy Giuliani. now famous for his Zero-Tolerance policy in the city, made his name on a series of Rico cases - especially in the Fulton Fish Market and the garbage pick-

And the old bosses? They died of natural causes, if they were lucky, or, like the elusive John Gotti, they were finally locked up.

New rackets and new gangs

appeared. Asian gangs thrived in Chinatown, across Canal Street from Little Italy. Black and Latin American gangs took over Mafia operations in Harlem. The Italian dons lost big time in 1987 when the Feds busted the "pizza connection". a heroin-smuggling ring run out of pizza pariours. So, are the Five Families headed

for dissolution? Salvatore (Big Sal) Miciotta, a former capo in the Colombo crime family, was quoted recently as saying: "Only a real

gavone (lowlife) wants for his kids what we got ... Idiots and wannabes are who's attracted to this life now." In other words, the Godfathers of yesterday are advising their sons

today that it is time that they got out

of the business. This is not quite the image portrayed by the Gotti parents, however. When Junior used to visit his dad in jail - so the videotapes show - he spent almost the whole time sulking in a chair while his father yelled at him, possibly about mistakes he'd made in the "family" business. Last year, when Junior first considered copping a plea, his mother threw a fit and told him to straighten his spine.

But before the idea takes hold that these vicious criminals have suddenly become the "Gang That Can't Shoot Straight", it must be remembered that Gotti Junior may not be a good example from which to develop a trend. The fact is that he was not good at running anything; even legitimate husinesses he opened soon crashed. And the "tamily" business went down hill fast. When Gotti Senior took over the Gambinos, he inherited 21 crewsgroups of "soldiers" led by capos, and supplemented by associates. Today, the family is down to about 11 crews, with influence waning in the garment district, the Teamsters, construction and garbage.

Junior's sister, Victoria Gotti, a successful romance novelist, had to help bail him out of jail. The bail terms were so stiff-including house arrest and \$24,000 a month to pay for private security guards to watch over him - that be asked the judge to put him back in prison because he couldn't make the payments. And he never managed to adopt the studied elegance of the high-crime chieftains. He has a weight problem. He dresses badly. And he drives a mini-van. No one in the Mafia likes him, so it is said.

"He's a laughing stock," said one FBI mob-chaser. "The Genovese family won't even meet with him. A lot of the family's earnings are gone. They lose in sit-downs with other families over loan-sharking and extortion beefs - the family is

Maybe he is the symbol of the new FBI wiretaps of crime sy cates used to reveal murder plots, blood feuds and betrayals. Now they reveal mobsters who are in retirement in Miami discussing their prostate problems.

Even monuments of past feuds, such as Umberto's Clam House in Manhattan's Little Italy where Joey Gallo was gunned down in 1972, have disappeared. The restaurant moved a block north, avoiding the encroaching Oriental cafés from Chinatown. In its new location, Umberto's menu is the same as ever. Last Wednesday, I had half-a-dozen Little Neck clams on the shells, mussels with biscuits and Italian beer - hut the cocks came from Latin America.

Walk this way

Continued from page 1 "Frankly," Shai admitted, "I don't see any solution."

So what was going to happen, I asked Haim Shapiro of the Jerusalem Post, if figures exceeded official expectations? "If there are, as they predicted, six million extra pilgrims," said Shapiro, "then you're going to have..." Mayhem? "Not automatically," he replied, "but it won't be pleasant.

The full implications of 2000 for Christians didn't occur to all Jews here, especially to some in authority. We started planning late. If you compare the organisation for the Millennium here with Rome, we have done nothing at all."

What, I asked Shapiro, was the worst-case scenario? "The absolute nightmare," he replied, "and I haven't looked at the calendar to check this, would be if the Orthodox Easter and the Western Easter fell on the same day in 2000. Orthodox pilgrims paralyse the whole of Jerusalem at Easter, even without the Westerners."

Carrier Strategy

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STATES NO.

A huge influx could have been excellent news for Ron Major, of course, had he been more willing to apply his commercial talents to his Capernaum venture. I called Ze ev Margalit, an executive with the National Parks Authority, which will organise the Walk on the Water

scheme, for more details.

"Ron Major's Walk on the Water is a private project," said Margalit. So what was the government's financial involvement? "None," he replied. What, in his view, were Ron's motives? Margalit laughed. "Financial, of course."

"His aim is profit," said Shlomo Dolberg, head of the Financial Division of the Parks Authority. "The



Rou Major Micha Bar-Am

same as every entrepreneur. He will pay us a percentage."

"Really?" said Major, when I told him of the official's remarks. "That's very strange." If you are thinki

water next year, you might be well advised to time your visit carefully. As you might expect from Israel's other misfortune with the calendar. both the Orthodox and Western Easters do indeed fall on the same day in 2000: 23 April, St George's Day.

There are all kinds of reasons, of course, why the feared disruption may not materialise. There may be terrorist action or unrest on the West Bank. An economic downturn could deter secular visitors. The Pope may not be well enough to travel. If tourist interest does live up to expectations, Israel may need another miracle, this time of the kind that even Ron can't deliver. © Moil On Sunday/Review

Speeding on the road to mother's ruin

Mother's little helpers were a feature of the 1960s, but now? Women wanting to lose weight after childbirth are mad for them. By Sophie Radice

CAROLINE HAD been plump for a while. She had put a lot of weight on her small frame after her first baby and, a year or so after her second. few of her friends could remember her uncanny resemblance to Audrey

I hadn't seen her for a couple of months, but when she opened the door, she stood in pedal pushers and a small white T-shirt looking longlimbed and elegant once again. As we walked on the heath she talked vaguely about how she was eating healthily and taking a bit more exercise. But somehow it just didn't ring true. Caroline is just not the sort to deprive herself of anything and thinks that exercise is for boring, semi-religious types. When the truth came

Caroline noticed that her namy had lost masses of weight and asked her how. The newly svelte Australian girl came back from her room with a "wrap" of paper containing a white powder. Not cocaine but speed (amphetamine sulphate in this case). It shows how much Caroline wanted to get thin because rather than sack her on the spot, she asked if she could join this whizzy new weight loss programme straight away.

She and her nanny would snort some in the morning first thing, which would mean that they felt "In the evening I force myself to

have a little something to eat and then we smoke some spliffs and come down," she explained. Seeing the horrified look on my face. Caroline became defensive. "Look, you drink lots of coffee don't you? Well, it's the same thing. really..." She only had good things to say about the drug, but later that afternoon she held my son upside down in the sandpit and didn't stop even when he started to cry. On the way home he told me that he never, ever wanted to see "that mad lady" again.

Fifties American housewives hoovering all night. Mods on "Dexys", long-haul air hostesses on Benzedrine and punks taking sulphate to pogo the night away -these are the stereotypes of amphetamine users, not wealthy, welleducated mothers of two with a weight problem. It seemed terribly old fashioned somehow, the thought of Caroline "going tweaky" (my American cousin's word for speed freaks) in north London just because she has gone a few sizes up

In the Fifties and early Sixties a lot of women relied on the legally prescribed amphetamines Benzedrine and Dezamphetamine to

energetic and had no appetite for the extremely easy to get hold of of years ago when she and her husbecause both were not only prescribed for obesity but a host of other symptoms such as seasickness and migraines. Students used it to help them get through exams and even Anthony Eden during the Suez crisis said that he was "living on

> 'I took speed because I was fed up with feeling fat ... after about two weeks I had my first epileptic fit'

Since the Misuse of Drugs Act of 1964, amphetamine-based drugs are prescribed mostly for narcolepsy and paradoxically to treat children with hyperactivity. Only in extreme cases of morbid obesity would a doctor consider a short treatment of slimming pills.

These days, women who want to lose weight through amphetamines usually have to do so through illegal means. One woman I know in her fifties works in publishing. She keep their weight down. They were had a complete life change a couple

band split up. She got herself a much younger boyfrieod and started on what she describes as a "second or third adolescence" "I remembered speed from my

Mod days," she says, "and also how quickly you could lose weight. My boylriend got it from one of his friends and I started to use it at the weekends. I was thrilled when I lost two stone extremely easily. I felt sexier that I had done in years and for a while the elation of being thin carried me through the way I felt when I was not

"But then I began to suffer from chronic comedowns and got terribly depressed. I became really fright-I finally admitted all to my GP. He explained to me that amphetamines work on borrowed energy and that for a women of my age in particular. it was dangerous to be messing about with my metabolism like this. He also said that I would certainly put all the weight back on.

"Actually, he was wrong about than when I started this 'experiment'."

For another friend, aged 32, who now runs her own film production company, taking "speed" to lose weight had more serious conse-

quences on her long-term health. "I have a very close-knit bunch of female friends and every single one of us took speed at one time or another to lose weight. I took it at the beginning of a group holiday because I was fed up with feeling lat and had tried the conventional way so many times to no avail I suppose I took it for about two weeks, and when I went back to work I had my first epileptic fit. Although I haven't had one for about a year now, I am sure that the combination of a lot of stress at work and using speed that hrought it about."

Melanie McFadyean, author of Drugs Wise, feels that ill-

effects of amphetamines are often brought about "not because ened about what I was doing when of the drug itself, but hecause I started to get heart palpitations and of the lifestyle that sometimes accompanies it; users don't eat properly and so debilitate themselves. Repeated and prolonged use of amphetamine can also provoke emotional disturbance,"

It is well known that women will go to extraordinary lengths to keep their weight down, but speed is not actually the kind of drug to slip that. I am still a whole lot thinner neatly and unnoticed into working or family life.

Most mothers should really think twice before taking something which could make them even more wound up and tense than usual around



Amphetamines and housework: a perfect combination?

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THE FRIDAY REVIEW The Independent 9 April 1999

SCIENCE

New research argues that the consumption of cooked vegetables is the source of our large brains. By Steve Connor

A race of potato-heads

visitor from another planet may wonder how it was that human beings acquired their large brains. The enormous cranial capacity of Homo sapiens, compared to body size, is truly exceptional. It is one of the most obvious physical features that distinguishes us from the rest of the animal kingdom and yet scientists have long been puzzled over why the human brain evolved to be so big over such a relatively short period in history. Now a team of anthropologists believe they have found the answer - big brains came about when early humans learnt how to cook root vegetables.
It may seem far fetched to believe

that the brain, with all its stupendous achievements, owes its origins to something as unappetising as a boiled carrot or baked potato, hut this is just what Richard Wrangham has proposed. Wrangham, professor of hiological anthropology at Harvard University, has devised a plansible argument for why human brain growth went into overdrive. It was, he suggests, powered by the high-energy fuel locked in plant tubers which suddenly became available when humans learnt how to cook

"The suggestion is that cooking is what makes humans human," Professor Wrangham explains. It was cooking that allowed the transition from the Australopithecines - a human-like ape - to a true buman ancestor, in the form of Homo erectus, nearly two million years ago. It was cooking that enabled the human anatomy to undergo a major reconstruction, and it was cooking that provided the energy needed to feed the enormous appetite required to huild and maintain a large brain.

There have been many theories to explain the rapid evolution of the human brain, which took place over a few hundred thousand years, an eye-blink in evolutionary history. Some scientists have suggested that a large brain initially evolved as a way of cooling the head when early began to walk on two le Others have proposed that bigger brains became sexually advantageous when courtship rituals began to involve ever more intricate displays of linguistic and artistic prowess. But the most plausible idea was that large brains came about as a result of some major change in diet.

Anthropologists thought this must have been when early humans began to scavenge or hunt for meat. which is nutritionally rich and could easily provide the extra calories necessary for brain development. It was a meat-eater's answer to the big-brain conundrum, and the evidence of a major change of diet being responsible was convincing.

The difference in anatomy between Australopithecines, who lived in Africa between one and five mil-



'Eat your vegetables and you'll evolve nicely.' Prehistoric man boosted his calorie intake with roots Mary Evans Picture Library

lion years ago, and Homo erectus, perhaps the earliest human ancestor, points to a major transition in the type of food eaten. In addition to an increase in brain capacity, from about 500 cubic centimetres in a typical Australopithecine to about 750ccs in H erectus (which doubted again for later members of the species), teeth became smaller and intestines shrunk. Clearly this must have meant a conversion to a nu-

tritionally richer diet. A further change in the transition from Australopithecine to H erectus

is that the difference in size between females and males became less noticeable. The larger H erectus females must have had a better diet than their smaller Australopithecine sisters. Putting all this together clearly showed that food must have become more nutritious as a result of a radical change in diet.

The traditional explanation is that this must have been caused by the transition from a fundamentally vegetarian diet of nuts and berries to a more carnivorous diet. Profes-

sor Wrangham, however, is not con-

published in the journal Current Anthropology, he cites several problems with the meat theory. Modern tribes today rarely, if ever, eat more meat than plants, and it was almost certainly true two million years ago that meat must have heen very much a luxury food, and not something that could be relied on as a sta-

ple item of the diet. Another problem is that when animals, such as chimps, become more carnivorous there is little evidence that they grow any higger as

vinced. In a scientific paper to be a result. When Wrangham and his colleagues tried to compare the amount of energy added to the diet hy changing to meat and cooked tubers, the tubers won each time. Wrangham says that a diet consisting of 60 per cent cooked tubers about the proportion eaten by modern African tribes - boosted calorie intake by more than 40 per cent compared with humans who are nuts. berries and uncooked tubers. Boosting the meat part of the diet to 60 per cent merely added an extra 20 per cent to the total calorie intake.

"Cooking makes food more available and digestible in at least five ways," the researchers say. "It can crack open or otherwise destroy physical barriers such as thick skins or husks. It can burst cells, thereby making cell cootents more easily available for digestion and absorption. It can modify the threedimensional structure of molecules such as proteins and starches into forms more accessible for digestion.

It can reduce the chemical structure

of indigestible molecules into small-

er forms, and it can denature toxins." Of course, a crucial aspect of the theory is determining exactly when early man was first able to control fire. The subject has vexed many anthropologists who have suggested several possible dates, ranging from two and a half million years ago to as recently as 200,000 years ago, with the first appearance in the archaeological record of hurnt animal bones, hearths and the earliest examples of earthen ovens.

Critics of the Wrangham hypothesis have pointed out that there has never been any direct evidence of controlled fires at around the time of his proposed invention of cooking - roughly 1.8 million years ago. Wrangham, however, retorts that more ephemeral cooking fires rather than cooking hearths and ovens - are less likely to have left traces behind for scientists to discover, "Absence of evidence does not mean evidence of absence. We need better ways of looking for early examples of controlled fires," he says

The African climate of two million years ago would have created a tinder box environment for natural fires to occur frequently, leading to many charred roots being left behind in their wake. "Whether or not they were controlled, however, fires could have cooked plant or animal foods without hominid effort, providing an easy initial entree for the use of cooking technology. Ooce hominids had detected the merits of cooking, we suggest the idea would spread rapidly," the researchers say.

One of the more intriguing astuber cooking could easily have heen controlled by females, giving early women a powerful influence over their menfolk. Wrangham suggests this may have led to a tendency for males to scrounge food from females, leading women to form sexual liaisons with other men who would act as guards - a sort of quid pro quo. In effect, this would have led to the sexual strategy of semimonogamy common in human societies today. "It is striking that among all modern humans, women tend to be the cooks," the scientists say. "The critical logic is that whenever cooking evolved, it led rapidly to the evolution of males scrounging from females respecially mothers: and thence to sexual alliances." Who said baked spuds could

UPDATE

TWO ANTARCTIC ice shelves have brokeo up more quickly than anyone bad predicted, thus indicating that the effects of global warming may be accelerating, British and American scientists have warned.

Unusually, the team from the British Antarctic Survey and the University of Colorado were so alarmed by their findings that they chose to announce them ahead of publicatioo in the Journal of Glaciology, to which they have been submitted.

The satellite images show the Larsen B and Wilkins ice sbelves in "full retreat". having lost nearly 3,000 square kilometres (1,170 sq miles) of their total area in the past year. The images can be viewed at: www.nsidc.colorado.edu/NSI DC/ICESHELVES/lars-wilkoews. Ted Scambos of the University of Colorado said his team had predicted the hreak-up would happen, but not this quickly.

"It happened much faster than we thought," he said. 'It was nearly as much activity in a single year as we've seen, oo average, in 10 or 15 years up to now." The Larsen Ice Shelf is on the eastern half of the peninsula, pointing towards Argentina. The Wilkins is on the south-

Within a few years, much of the Wilkins ice shelf is likely to be gone," said David Vaughan of the British Antarctic Survey.

AMERICAN NEUROLOGISTS think they have found a key enzyme that triggers the onset of Alzheimer's disease. Called presenilin, it may be key to controlling the productioo of toxic build-ups of insoluble "amyloid beta" proteins, which form tangled wehs in the hrain. The work, published in Nature, means scientists are "very much on the road" to an Alzheimer's treatment, said Dr Dennis selkoe, a oeurolog Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, who believes that drugs which block the enzyme could be in human clinical trials within three years.

But other scientists cast doubt on whether presenilin is the whole story, and also on whether it acts alone or in concert with other enzymes. so far unidentified. They also pointed out that the enzyme may be important for regulation of other processes such as the immune system. and that degrading its function could lead to unwanted and unexpected side-effects.

CHARLES ARTHUR

Are we really what we ate?

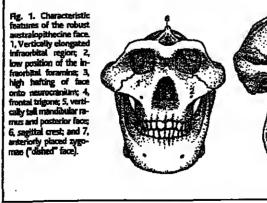
An American scientist has challenged the view that Australopithecines owed their

heavy facial features to the chewiness of their food. By Steve Connor

HE WAS not a pretty sight. Blessed with a thick-set jaw, jutting eyebrows, eyes a touch too close together and a pin-sized brain, he was not the sort of handsome conversationalist you would like to have round for dinner. Yet Australopithecines were our ancestral bridge with the great apes, and what they looked like was very much dictated by what they

ate - or was it? The conventional view of the thick jawbones and general facial thuggishness of the Australopithecine hominid was that it was a supreme adaptation to some pretty rough chewing habits. Tough nuts, raw vegetables and other chewy fruits of a primitive feeding habit meant that Australopithecines had to have big teeth, thick jaws and strong facial muscles. A new interpretation published in the journal Science suggests, however, that the thick jawbone may have been an unavoidable byproduct of something that happened during the beast's

embryonic development. Australopithecines are the earliest known hominids in the evolutionary line from ape to humans. They are believed to have lived from about five million years ago but, although they walked upright and were clearly distinct from their ape ancestors, they did not share enough human traits to be classed as members of the Homo genus. They did



The heavy jaw of Australopithecus: adaptation or coincidence?

tools and it is most unlikely that they

had either language or fire. There are several types of Australopithecus, but they can be hroadly divided into two groups. One was thick-set and "robust", the other had a lighter body and was more "gracile" in appearance - it to have been one of our direct anis from this group that the human

line evolved. Australopithecus is "Lucy", an almost complete skeleton of a female. discovered in the 1970s by archaeologists excavating near Laetoli in Tanzania. Lucy lived about 3.6 milname to the Beatles' song "Lucy in Australopithecines.

not for instance, use primitive flaked the Sky with Diamonds", which happened to be playing at the time she was discovered. Her formal name is A afarensis.

Several other species of Australopithecus have also been discovered, including A africanus - a slender, gracile type which is likely cestors - and the thick-set A robustus. The convectional view is that The most famous specimen of all these species share a commoo ancestor, hut Melanie McCollum. an physical anthropologist from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, challenges this theory with a study of the hon years ago and owes her nick-facial characteristics of the robust

She notes that the robusts have a very thick palate - the hooe at the roof of the mouth - which was thought to be an adaptation to some heavy-duty plant chewing. However, McCollum argues, a thick palate might also have resulted as a byproduct of how the face formed during embryonic development.

McCollum says in her paper in Science that the 20 or so traits which are commonly thought to place the three species of robust Australopithecines into the same related group may actually be the incidental byproducts of just two facial features - a tall mandible bone and a forward-growing nasal bone called the vomer. In short, McCollum believes that the common characteristics were are believed to have linked all the robust Australopithecines may not in fact derive from a common ancestor they are, in effect, less related than

we once thought. If McCollum's interpretation is right, it seems that the thick-set jaw and general neo-brutal looks of at least one of our distant ancestral cousins may be more to do with incidental side-effects of embryo development than a product of evolutionary adaptation to eating chewy food.

It just so happened that the same traits made it easy to eat what was available at the time.

TECHNOQUEST

never be sexy?

Q is it possible to say how fast our galaxy is moving tbrough the universe? Yes, by measuring the apparent Doppler shift of the microwave background radiation - leftover "noise" from the Big Bang. Since that radiation is not moving, and we are, we can measure the motion of the Milky Way rather accurately. The voluminous Wembley The current best number is that we are moving at about Stadium 600 km per second in a Q In Britain, we can now buy direction away from the

constellation Cygnus. An interesting, unsolved question is, if we are moving, what is pulling us? Astronomers say it is the "Great Attractor" - believed to be just a local imbalance in the galaxy distribution, with a relatively local cluster of galaxies invisible behind the (southern) Milky Way creating a local gravitational attraction.

Q What is the largest temporary structure that has been huilt at sea? One of the Tension Leg Oil Drilling Platforms in the Gulf of Mexico. The latest one. apparently, sets the depth record for a drilling and production platform. It operates in approximately 1,300 metres of water and cost \$1.65hn (£1bn) to construct. The tendons anchoring it to the sea floor weigh 16,000 tonnes, the hull weighs over 23,000 tonnes and the deck over 22,400 tonnes.



Allsport

gas from a variety of companies, hut it all comes down the same pipes. How do the companies know how much to bill you? The gas meter at your house registers how much gas you use, but not who supplies it. But this doesn't really matter. You have a contract with a certain gas company - the "provider" that says you'll pay them for the gas you use. The provider has a contract with the company that owns the pipes, saying that it will put enough gas into the pipes to meet the demands of its customers.

The gas providers know how many customers they have and how much gas they are likely to use from the customers' gas meters, so they pump in enough gas to meet these demands.

The customers, in effect, receive a mixture of the providers' gases - but as it is the same product, that makes no difference. At the end of each quarter, the amount of gas

the provider has pumped in, and the amount of gas its customers have used, is worked out. If the provider has not pumped in sufficient gas, it is fined by the pipe owners.

Q What is the volume of Wembley Stadium? The surface area of the stadium is approximately 52,032 square metres. Its height is 38 metres, which gives the volume as 52032 x 38 = 1,977,216 cuhic metres.

Q Where did (urban) Victorians get their ice? They actually had ships bring it down from icebergs, glaciers, and so on, and then they brought large blocks of it. They kept it in cool rooms in their houses and chipped off bits as necessary. Needless to say, this was very wasteful and made the ice very expensive, so only the rich could afford it.

Q During the Second World War in North Africa, I came across several large manmade caverns underground. What were they? They were water reservoirs. Surface water is lost very quickly to the heat in North Africa so, many centuries ago, people built reservoirs underground in order to store water. Some still exist and can

You can visit the Technoquest World Wide Web site at http://www.sciencenet.co.uk

be found all over the desert.

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Comic strips go to war

Travelling to the world's war zones, Joe Sacco has invented his own job as a comic-strip foreign correspondent. He's already done Palestine and Bosnia. And Kosovo's next. By Nick Hasted

oe Sacco was trying to get to Kosovo when the war started. He wanted to walk with the UN observers, to enter the Serb side and see things for himself. He'd been to such places before. The last decade had seen him hone a unique skill as a comicstrip foreign correspondent in parts of the world that to many in the West seemed unknowable, their inhabitants faceless. With few resources or credentials, he has spent months living alongside Palestinians, then Bosmans, soaking up their stories. The award-winning, incendiary, 300-page comic-book Palestine was the first result. Now, he's finishing his Bosnian labours a book on one-time besieged East Bosnian "safe zone" Gorazde, and five separate Stories from Bosnia. He's determined be'll get to Kosovo, next. He doesn't have a choice.

"Tve always been one of those people who is upset by what is going on in the world," says Sacco, a far more ordinary. looking 39-year-old than the blank-eyed. rubber-lipped grotesque his comics show "I remember waking up in the middle of the night, thinking, 'I've got to go to Bosnia'. Knowing that if I didn't at that point, I'd despise myself. It's like lighting a fire under my ass. When I left, I was still feeling exhausted from Palestine. In some ways I felt like I should give myself a break, but on the other hand, I need to get there now. It's happening now."

Sacco's first exposure to the atrocities of war came from the World War Two memories of his Maltese parents. His subsequent rootless existence, migrating across the world, from Australia to his current bome in Portland, Oregon, added to a questing perspective. He went to Palestine in the winter of 1991.

The resulting comic was the first since Art Spiegelman's Pulitzer-winning Holocaust memoir Maus to successfully show the medium's potential for reportage of a sort impossible in other forms. Sacco's Palestine was a place of faces of desperate openness, blank exhaustion or wideeyed rage, staring out at him panel after wouldn't come. Though the only story shouldn't fill yourself up with politics,"

panel. He drew the Gaza Strip as a sinking shanty town, a vast panorama of closepacked humanity shuffling through mud. living in wall-less, rootless poverty, under pressing storm clouds. It restored humanity to a population previously seen only in TV flashes.

"If you're going to write ahout something, you should be at the centre of it." Sacco says. "Most people in America are not too interested in foreign events, it's all too complicated for them. I felt that if I presented Palestinians as buman heings, with faces, in their living rooms serving you tea, they could relate to them. You can do that with a comic, you can take someone inside, take them into their homes. There

'He still talks up the illicit thrills of stalking Karadzic, knowing it'll be good for the comic'

are other advantages, too, Because I wasn't going in with a carnera, people didn't act up, or shy away. In Sarajevo, people were so sick of talking to journalists that when they found out I was a cartoonist they welcomed me in even more. The disadvantage is it takes so many years to get the thing drawn,"

Sacco's writing is distinguished by a sniping, self-lacerating wit, undercutting perspectives more bluntly partisan than most journalists would dare. He went to Palestine supporting the Intifada. He went to Bosnia "demonising" Serbs. But one of the riveting aspects of his work is the way such perspectives are buffeted by experience.

Sacco's time in Bosnia saw his gung-ho wish for the country to win its war muted by the wish of Bosnians to simply be rid of its drab grind. When be found himself face to face with Radovan Karadzic, leader of the Bosnian Serbs, the hate he wanted

from Bosnia published so far. Soba, puts the face of a Bosnian - the eponymous artist-soldier - to the conflict, its peculiar moments for Sacco came when he reluctantly crossed the line in Sarajevo, and spoke to the demon Serbs.

"It was a real test to go, which I'd been avoiding," he remembers. "I could be with Serbs on the Serb side, and cross a bridge and balf an hour later I was drinking with my friends. It was distressing at first. Then I realised I wanted to push myself in that extreme way as much as I could, bouncing between them in half an hour, to see bow that would affect me. You almost forget where you are, because the faces sometimes look so similar that you have to catch

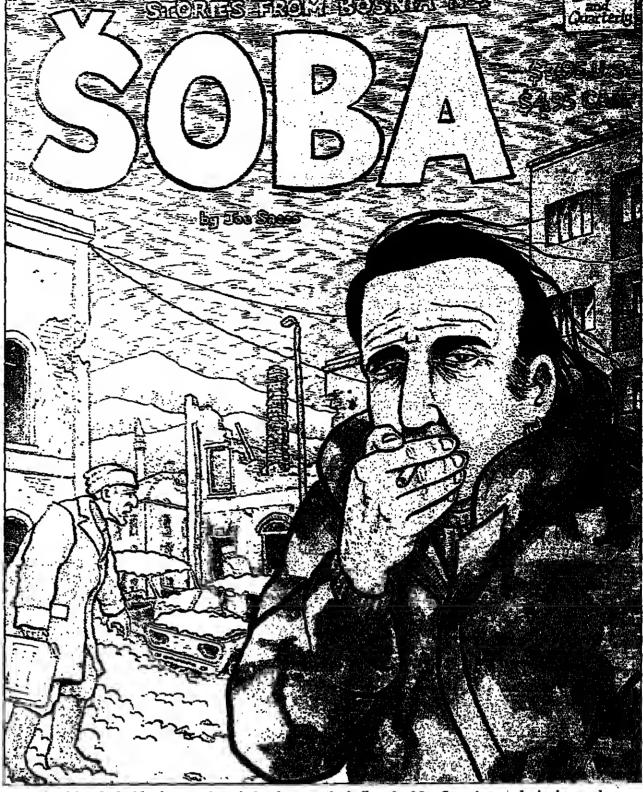
yourself, watch what you're saying." Sitting down night after night with Palestinian and Bosnian friends, sinking so deeply into one side of a conflict, Sacco's work could be seen as propaganda for their struggles, more than journalism. It doesn't

"To me the way to be honest, if you have a point of view, which f definitely had about Palestine, was to show the Palestinians as honestly as possible. You don't want to hear a Palestinian speaking badly about the Jews' because you're not used to it, but also you think, this isn't going to look good if I portray it. But I have to portray It, because it's what I heard.'

The greatest fail-safe in Sacco's work is his honesty about himself. An early strip, War Junkie defined his ability to articulate his convictions by self-satire. Combining his response to the Gulf War with the simultaneous collapse of a long-term relationship, it shows the couch-bound Sacco sighing "Honey. I'm bome!" to CNN even as his "real" life crumbles.

Hapless, pathological, emotionally extreme, this version of Sacco has become muted as his involvement in events became more direct. But be still talks up the illicit, gonzo thrills of stalking Karadzic, the reprebensibility of notching up one more atrocity, knowing it'll be "good for the comic"

"You shouldn't empty yourself out, you



Capturing life's dark sides in a comic-strip has become the hallmark of Joe Sacco's award-winning work

he cautions. "I think that's dangerous. I'm glad you brought War Junkie up. It's my favourite comic, in some ways. It's maybe a subconscious way of saying I am a person with a life, outside of all this political stuff. It doesn't appear in Palestine or the work I'm doing on Bosnia because I've already told that. never need to write about myself in that

For now, as the bodies pile up in Kosovo, old notes and the nightly news. All he wants early next year.

Sacco is cutting himself off from involvement, turning to the daily labour of finishing his book on the siege of Gorazde. This latest turn has not outdated his story. He's dealing with the slaughter there led by the Serb paramilitary leader Arkan, the dumping of thousands of corpses, even as the UN is targeting him as a war criminal.

He's describing starvation, finding depressing resonances every day between his

to do now is finish his story, repay the trust his informants put in him. "These are ongoing problems," he says, "and I want to get this information out as soon as I can. It's making me more determined to work on it. There's nothing more I can do."

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Palestine' (Fantagraphics) and 'Soba' (Drawn & Quarterly) are available from comic shops. 'Gorazde' will be published



A Hamlet of zany touches

THEATRE

HAMLET

YOUNG VIC

LONDON

PAUL RHYS is most people's mental picture of the perfect Hamlet: pale, tall, willowy and haunted - exuding a sensitivity that could easily turn nasty and with eves that have a pained, wild quality to them.

He also has just the right pedigree for the part, having, in Richard Eyre's celebrated Lear, beautifully portrayed Edgar, another character who has to adopt the disguise of madness as a survival tactic. And he has piercingly communicated strains of the Oedipal bond in Long Day's Journey Into Night. How this formidable platonic template would

over a fiction.

Jackson

that and Hamlet's adolescent

translate into the reality of live performance was the pressing question before the London première at the Young Vic of Laurence Boswell's new

staging of the tragedy. At the start, I feared we were in for a one-note sentimentalisation of this virtuous, but dangerous hero. Eves raw with weeping for his father, Rhys's Hamlet has emphatically no need to envy the Player King's ability to work up tears The strong thread of this

For me, the performance really caught fire when the hero began to feign insanity

sense of martyrdom while also firmly intimating to Claudius that he is standing in godlike judgement over him. But no one since Mark Rylance has transmitted as well as Rhys a sense of the

hero's spiritual sweetness or the fundamental peace he has achieved by the time he has returned from England. Contentedly scrubbing Yorrick's skull as he sits in his sunken bathtub before the climactic fencing match, Rhys' Hamlet shows you a man who can now freely afford these zany touches he still delights in.

performance compensates for some interpretative niggles in a basically very intelligent production. The set by Es Devlin is certainly striking - a traverse design, in sombre black, with raised platforms at either end and two mobile flaps that can protrude outward to form a bridge over the intervening space. But except at odd moments, as when Hamlet stands on one platform and

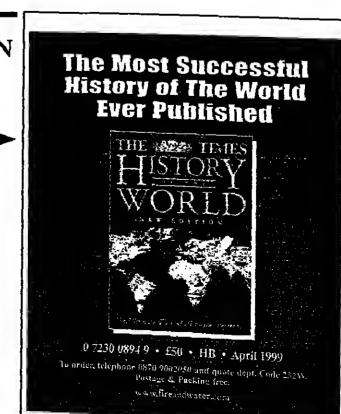
Todd Boyce's blonde, meanlooking Fortinbras on the other, thus giving you a symbolic contrast between the contemplative and a man of action. there didn't seem to me to be enough visual opposition to justify such a confrontational set up. It results in some rather awkward or nonsensical moments - over the wide spacial gulf, this Hamlet has to. point a pistol, directly and bizarrely, in the face of Claudius

at prayer. The text used is a very full one, which means that Robert Soanes's unusually unpleasant Polonius gets to do the compellingly nasty scene where he sets a spy on his son. At the start, the actors, wearing black civvies, schmooze with the audience as they take their seats. In the circumstances, you half expect them to ask: "Fancy a funeral baked meat, darlin's

By the end, I am glad to say, this talented company has achieved a much less forced

PAUL TAYLOR





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UDAY REVIEW

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MUSIC

t's a grey weekday lunchtime in glamorous East Anglia. Cambridge town centre is brought to a resentful standstill as a series of huge pantechnicons disgorge their cargo. Leatherylooking men with loud laughs, and eyes that have not so much bags as whole sets of matching luggage under them, hump a succession of huge boxes into the municipally-supported music venue. The catering woman struggles postairs with crates containing piccalilli and other toxic delicacies.

The particular nature of the performers seems to have little impact on the time-honoured ritual of the rock'n'roll circus coming to town. For the two men contemplating 10 years on the road in an unfurnished dressing room illuminated by brutal strip lighting are not hardened rock beasts; they are Phil and Paul Hartnoll of electronic trailblazers Orbital. Phil (gleaming scalp; welltrimmed goatee; three children) did not sleep a wink on the overnight trip from Wolverhampton because he worries too much about the tour bus crashing. His more carefree younger brother Paul Cuxuriant locks newly trimmed; clean-shaven: as yet unreplicated) is contemplating taking a stroll along the river before the soundcheck.

Despite exhibiting none of the fratricidal tendencies of the Gallaghers, or the creepy telepathy of the movie-making Coens, these Kentish soul brothers have developed a sibling mythology every bit as lustrous. When they play live - trademark torchlight spectacles dancing firefly-style, bodies bobbing beneath like hatchlings in an electric nest they exude a heady sense of familial intuition which spreads out to encompass the whole of their audience.

People on this tour are hearing songs from Orbital's new album their fifth - for the first time, and yet electric tingles of anticipation and recognition still pass back and forth between the Hartnolls and their audience. Not hecause Orbital are repeating themselves, but because their music still communicates as directly as it did when they first translated Acid House and clubland communion into a gig-going environment. All that's gone from this

transaction is the novelty. While familiarity has not bred contempt among the populace at large, the critical community has been less understanding. A recent gig was greeted in these very pages with the damning verdict "all that's missing is the pipe and slippers".

"That's what we're facing now," says Paul, resignedly. "Ten years ago, it was [assumes fascinated voice of Sixties science documentary): 'What are these strange computerised sounds?' Now it's: 'Oh, more electronic music. That's not

very original." "It's funny," Phil adds, not looking particularly amused, "no one ever says that about Blur or Oasis. They can go on ripping off the Beatles for ever and nobody says: 'Oh God, it's this again." I thought everyone said that but obviously Orbital don't move in such sceptical circles.) They're not ones to moan, hut they have been catching it from all sides lately. "Muzik magazine disses us just for being old," Phil continues mournfully.

He has put his not-so-ancient 35vear-old finger on it there. While the date of the Allman Brothers' first beart bypass remains an enduring source of fascination in the tolerant world of rock criticism, techno is not



Phil (left) and Paul Hartnoll, aka Orbital: when they play live, they exude a heavy sense of familial intuition

Round and round again

Orbital were the pioneers who took electronic music off the dancefloor and made it work on stage. That was 10 years ago: now the band are rubbished for being old and boring. But why should dance music be the preserve of the young? By Ben Thompson

bizarre as it may seem for a music which traces its roots back to Kraftwerk as clearly as Led Zeppelin traced theirs to the hlues, entrenched - and frankly outmoded futuristic rhetoric insists that every year must be year zero. Hence, to critical ears at least, it's a young

man's game.

But if all Orbital's music (or anyone else's for that matter) had going for it was that it was new, then there wouldn't be much point to it anyway. The same way their new album The Middle Of Nowhere unfolds in all sorts of unexpected and delightful directions - stretching and furling like a shy sidewinder making its getaway - so the duo's achievements become more interesting with time, rather than less.

When Orbital first appeared on Top of the Pops early in 1990, "dance acts" were not expected to play live or make long-playing records. "That

supposed to have a history. As was never a problem for us," Paul explains, "because we'd grown up on New Order and Cabaret Voltaire, who did both." With their first two Untitled alhums taka "The Green One" and "The Brown One"1, and a hurgeoning live reputation taking them from the ground-hreaking Midi Circus package tour of 1992 to the main stage at Glastonbury three years later, Orbital nimbly vaulted every obstacle in their path.

Traditional constraints on electronic music could no more restrain them than the M25 motorway they took their name from could contain London'a urban sprawl. Whether playing eight minutes of "Satan" on Later - at last, something Jools Holland couldn't plinky-plunk along with on his infernal boogie-woogie piano - or storming the Royal Albert Hall in 1996, nothing could stand in their way. A particularly treasured memory of the latter event was the sight of red-coated RAH custodians

shining torches into the eyes of first single "Style" boasted a vocal transported aficionados to try to get them to step down off their seats and stop dancing, only to have these cheerily incorporated into the revellers' interior lightshows.

'The type of sample I pick simply depends on whether it makes me laugh'

Orbital's determination to take their music to places it was never meant to go reaches new beights with The Middle Of Nowhere. As well as its demonically infectious Rolf Harris stylophone intro, and a remix featuring bagpipes from the Edinburgh Military Tattoo, the album's

sample from early-Eightles pop reprobates Dollar - not previously a name to drop in techno circles.

"Our parents used to run a pub." Paul explains, "and my mum used to collect the old seven-inch singles from the jukebox man - he'd just have thrown them away otherwise. As a result we've got about a yard of early-Eighties pop singles to dive into if it ever happens that we're stuck for a sample.

When they do things like this, is it to break up the surface of the music or to give people a familiar hook to hang on to? "It's just a matter of whether it's something that makes me laugh," Paul explains, turning his attention to the new album's greatest sampling coup track two's demonic relocation of the sinister theme to Eighties children's TV current affairs staple, John

Craven's Newsround. "The John Craven sample has a "The Middle Of Nowhere" is on ffre

lovely old-fashioned synthesiser quality to it," he beams, "and when I find something like that, it just makes me happy."

Despite its rather ominous title, The Middle Of Nowhere is probably Orbital's most felicitous record to date - forsaking the edgily compelling widescreen paranoia of its predecessors, Insides and Snivilisation, for a new mood that is upbeat to the point of jauntiness.

So where did this new cheerfulness come from? Phil speaks fondly of his new home in Brighton. Paul points to a change of studio - not some lusb, Caribbean flesbpot, hut "a fresb room with a window and a bit of a view", a hundred yards down the road from where they used to work in Old Street. What's the view like then? "Just a light-well that is two floors down," Paul smiles. "It's not much, but it's a start,"

LYRIC MARTIN NEWELL

Chuck Berry's (below) Route 66 isn't what it used to be. Neither is it where it used to be. No longer designated a National Highwoy, the legendary road, which spanned east-west from Chicago to Colifornia, is nou split between several other interstate highways.

Not Route 66

Not just a way from A to B It went from ILL. to Ca. Via quite a lot of Okla. Mo. But missing Ark, and La.

Two thousand miles of history Chuck Berry set to song Demoted to a ghost road They must have got it wrong

To uninvent a legend Like "Mainstreet USA" The place for backbeat drivers And rockers' motorway.

From shining northern cities Past hillsides further south The kind where men will stop you To praise your

"purdy mouth".

Past place-names so exotic To eager English ears That lyrics lodged like And stayed for 20 years

For instance; hearing "Flagstaff" And wondering where It's gratifying to find it.

Smack-bang there in Ariz.

Route 66 has vanished The number's there no more Re-christened Fifty-five now Then westwards.

Forty-four

Which makes you feel cheated Or actually aghast, To find that someone's stolen The way back to

your past.



VIDEO LAST LANGE THE BEST OF 1980-1990 PRICE IN THE NAME OF LIVE NEW YEAR'S DAY AND TOR WITHOUT YOU I STILL HAVEN'T FOUND WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR SCHOOL BY CODY BURGAY BAD CARLET THE STROTTS ROUGH NO NAME I WILL FOLLOW HIS UP. COMMENTARILY NOT SWEETEST THING NOS REWHEN LOVE COMES TO TOWN ARREST AT MELETY ALL I WANT IS YOU With Anatorica bonds to the of ONE TREE HILL grad outly from a sale factory Also available on CD, MC and Vinyl

RIFFS

THE FIRST AND LAST RECORDS BOUGHT BY KEITH DUFFY FROM BOYZONE

First record Every Rose Has Its Thorn. Whitesnake

Whitesnake are an old-school rock band, and it's a style this track represents very well. AC/DC, Metallica, Nirvana. Anthrax and Bon Jovi: these were my influences. And I hid from other types of music while I was a young boy. Wearing black was important, as was the repeated playing of the same track. The older I got, the heavier side of rock'n'roll I sought out, I grew up in a traditional Dublin environment; a hard, working-class background. My mother looked after us and we lived on a standard housing estate. In the house we'd set up the drums, plug in the amplifiers and have a jamming session, and it'd crack the plaster on the walls of the flat - at times, quite literally.

Last record

The Best Club Anthems, Ever The Fatboy Slim tune. "Praise You", was the reason behind my buying this dance compilation. I think if Norman Cook had released that record, two years ago, everyone would have thought it was just a load of

rubbish. It's a feel-good dance tune; a great song, which has everything there and evidence of a wide range of influences.

My own CD collection contains an incredible variety of musical styles. The Animals feature a lot, as do Simon and Garfunkel, The Eagles. U2. Eric Clapton, and contemporaries such as Fatboy Slim. Robbie Williams and Enigma.

When you are in a band it's hard to keep abreast of the music scene, and lately I have made an effort to buy music and appreciate what I get from music: influence, enjoyment, different ideas.

Before I was in Boyzone I was interested in the club scene, but now that I have found that special person I am not so interested in going out. It might be lazy, but these days I am much happier going out to a nice restaurant.

But I always go home and put on Club Anthems. Music isn't just good on the ear - it's

> INTERVIEW BY JENNIFER RODGER

'Boyzone: Greatest Hits' (Polydor) is out next month

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TOE THE LINE 4 This double CD comprises 40 tracks. featuring "Volcano" by Jimmy Buffett and Diance The Hapht Away" by The Mavencks



HUNGRY AGAIN DOLLY PARTON The assonishing career of one of the world's best selling country stars leaches a new high



TRIO 2 HARRIS, PARTON, RONSTADT With three of country's most impassioned and recognisable voices teamed together once more, this is a

busin full and compelling new album

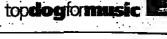


DANCE HALL DREAMS ROSJE FLORES The 'Queen Of The Honly Tonks' returns with an album firmly rooted in the traditional sound of Texas dance

hall music moneered by women like



BETH NIELSEN CHAPMAN Celebrating her finest work from her 1990 self-utled debut album right up to classics from the emotionally charged





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/FEAT

sters jus used to i Nose" D "Fat Doc Willie Ma bit leg-br appearing as tur. New York court r evidence against Gotti, reputed hea crime syndicate. copped a plea thi that he had "cons of individuals for tion", the requisite a mob confession

Facing 18 year teering, the 35-ye "Dapper Don" G boyant crime bo: Gotti "Junior" beat. He settled f six to seven year more sign that to is mozzarella c mobsters of yest Even the

"Junior" were r against traditic suits. "Junior" w ing down an u running a gamb drug dealer and on a bome mo application. O charged him wi the strip club's

Compare that was up to: organ a "button man" Paul Castellan down outside S in mid-town December eve time of his den head of the Ga lofty mob po: assumed by th

What made cially daring v agreed to by th with Sicilian fa says to never k mission of the Senior surviv until the Feds away for life. revenge - no son, Joseph J go into the far pizza-maker w wants to live in Florida, an More and

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THIS WEEK'S BIG NOISE

EMINEM

The Slim Shady LP Interscope

IN ALMOST every respect. Eminem is your typical rapper: he's obsessed with sex, drugs and violence, bereft of redeeming social value, his alhums are Parental Advisory-stickered for their explicit content, while his live shows incite anger not through their content, but for lasting a mere five or six numbers.

Just about the only respect in which he differs from most other rappers is in being

white, a factor which has perhaps led America's more vociferous moral guardians to assume be appeals to the middle-class white kids more than his black colleagues. Why else would they make such a fuss and bother about The Slim Shady LP, an album which fea-

tures much the same blend of fabulist outrage freely available at any self-respecting rap retailer? But fuss they do: indeed, rather than celebrating an industry success-story in its usual manner, venerable trade mag Billboard ran a full-page editorial de-nouncing Eminem's album, a step I don't recall it taking with NWA, Cypress Hill or even Ice-T during the notorious "Cop Killer" brouhaha.

By his own standards, Eminem real name Marsball Mathers - bas already been a buge success. As he admits on the hit single "My Name Is", "God sent me to piss the world off". Not that be's particularly affected by

the widespread condemnation: "If I had one wish," he claims a little later, "I'd wish for a big enough ass for the whole world to kiss". What a lovely bloke! The Slim Shady LP is his kissoff to the world, a non-stop litany of crime and misdemeanour in which his alter-ego, Slim Shady, brags of his sex and drug habits, watches as his girlfriend overdoses on mushrooms, recounts how his teachers thought be

> suffered from brain damage, and generally walks the finest of lines between comedy and

surgery. One track in particular, "97 Bonnie & Clyde" - depicted on the front cover has aroused fury for its account of how he killed his daughter's mother and, accompanied by the daughter, dumped mom's body in the sea.

It's not the murder that seems to bother people, but the presence of the child in the story; the next thing you know, Slim will be giving ber unfettered access to his violent video collection! Entertaining enough in small doses, his appeal wears off rapidly.

There's no depth or resonance to his scattershot scenarios, which never rise above the cartoonish. And, for all his undoubted verbal facility, he lacks the imagination with which Tex Avery and Chuck Jones made cartoon violence entertaining. The Slim Shady LP is a rap equivalent of Scooby-Doo; badly-drawn and all too predictable.

...AND THE OTHER ALBUM RELEASES

REVIEWED BY ANDY GILL



NEW RADICALS Maybe You've Been Brainwashed Too

AMERICAN GREGG Alexander, who effectively is the New Radicals, talks a good fight, at least. That's him on the hit You Get What You Give", dissing his fellow Americans: "... Dust Brothers, Beck, Hanson, Courtney Love and Marilyn Manson/You're all fakes, run to your mansions/Come around, we'll kick your ass in." And that's him on "Maybe You've Been Brainwashed Too", taking up arms against a sea of hypocrisy, from Christian spite to banks, politics, and rock music itself. "Rock'n'Roll! Some truth? Alas! Careerist cowards sucking ass". which sounds great until you see Gregg's floopy sun-hat and scooter on the sleeve - so retro-retro - and his music, which sounds like World Party circa "Ship Of Fools". Nothing new or radical about him. then. And despite the bumptious attitude. tracks like "Someday We'll Know" show him just as prey to maundering self-pity as the next chump. But, as he says on the title-track, "So cynical, so hip, so full of shit, they told us to shut the fuck up and write another hit". Sometimes, cynicism is its own reward.



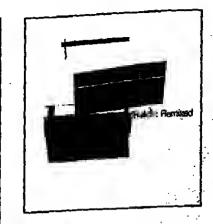
COREY HARRIS Greens From The Garden (Alligator)

NEW (IRLEANS-based anthropology graduale turned dreadlocked bluesman Corey Harris is one of the young. black neo-country-blues stylists currently attempting to wrest the form back from the straitjacketing notions of technical dexterity imposed upon it by a generation of white guitar-heroes. The emphasis on greens imustard, turnip and collard) in his work represents his ancestral connection with the land, as revealed here in the spoken interludes between soogs, which find him discussing food with his family. There's a strong N'Awlins flavour on Greens From The Garden, with the city's unique rhumba-rock rhythms underlying songs like "Eh La Bas" and "Wild West", the latter a patois denunciation of the Babyionian materialism of the USA: "First like sell we for sugar, then rum," he declaims sadly, "now him push cocaine." It's this willingness to use an old form to address contemporary issues which brings a freshness to Harris' songs, while the piercing growl of his vocals appropriately brings to mind the Howlin' Wolf, another blues moderniser from an earlier era.



ZITA SWOON I Paint Pictures On A Wedding Dress (Warner Music Benelux)

FORMERLY KNOWN as Moondog Jr. Zita Swoon are a Belgian quintet based around the songs of Stef Kamil Carlens, once of fellow low-country rockers dEUS. But where his former outfit seem to be edging ever closer to prog-rock on their latest album, Zita Swoon cleave closer to the rootsy ecleticism of Beck on the intriguing f Point Pictures On A Wedding Dress. Utilising a palette which adds glockenspiel, off-key piano, clarinet, born samples and Bjorn Eriksson's resophonic guitar to the usual line-up. Carlens's songs are semi-surreal exercises in emotional excavation, never afraid to veer off at lyrical tangents, though always staying within the unusual boundaries suggested by titles like "About The Successful Emotional Recovery Of A Gal Named Maria", "50 Years In Dope Jittery" and (my favourite) "My Bond With You And Your Planet: Disco!". Benefux boy Carlens takes more poetic chances with a foreign language than most English bands; the result is an album which gains, rather than diminishes, in mystery the more one hears it.



STEVE REICH Reich: Remixed (Nonesuch)

REMIXES ARE at best an afterthought and precious little thought of any kind appears to have gone into these 10 knob-jobs by the likes of Mantronik, Coldcut and Howie B. The failure, I think, derives from a confusion about the notion of repetition: there's a world of difference between the meticulously played repetition of Reich's minimalist pieces and the lazy tedium of machine-based repetition that comprises most dance music. It's all about tension and relaxation of time, rather than simple accumulation of bars and beats. and it seems extraordinary that anyone should think they could "improve" on Reich's music by the addition of a superfluous hi-hat track or electric piano part, or by feeding his flute, violin and marimba parts through sundry filters and delays, as on most of these tracks. The situation is most glaringly exposed on Ken Ishii's remix of "Come Out": merely by using state-of-the-art instant machine music technology, Ishii has managed to completely erase the shock of hearing what the composer produced in 1966 through laborious tape-manipulation. That's progress?

Formidable Five escape novelty island

THE SHOW begins at a disorientingly early time, scheduled to accommodate the needs of the VH-1 cameras recording proceedings and the large proportion of the invited crowd who want to catch both Ben Folds Five's first live performance in six months and the Manchester United vs Juventus match.

These are obviously not circumstances likely to encourage the kind of intensity and flights of derangement that characterise Ben Folds Five's good nights, but this remarkable band nonetheless demonstrate that they have every intention

they've been grudgingly afforded since they began their attempt to reintroduce the grand piano to the rock'n'roll palate.

The set is a short one - half a dozen or so songs from their imminent fourth album. The Unauthorised Biography Of Reinhold Messner plus the older favourites, The Battle Of Who Could Care Less and Underground.

The three members of the Five are intermittently joined by varying amounts of brass players, who do tonight what they do on the new album: manage to articulate the

LIVE BEN FOLDS FIVE SOUND REPUBLIC LONDON

without drowning out Ben Folds' new songs, which are as intelligent and touching as might, by now, be expected, but are also benefiting from an increasing confidence which has allowed to Folds to dispense with the gratingly cheap jokes that have occasionally blighted his work

oping sure-footedness as a writer: while certainly a clever and funny lyric, and possibly the first one in pop history to mention the "mullet" haircut, it is delivered with a touch light enough to ensure that the song won't become fist-chewingly irritating even if it becomes an inescapably ubiquitous hit (which, given the giddy, swinging big band brass book. It almost certainly will).

If justice is not deaf as well as hind, "Army" will be followed into the upper reaches of the charts by Mess". a gorgeous. trundling The new single, "Army", is a fine country lament that sounds of outliving the novelty status. Five's increasing musical ambition indication of Folds' rapidly devel- fine tonight even without the

"Wichita Lineman" strings of the recorded version.

Even those who have been unable to see past Ben Folds Five's occasional seizures of undergraduate wackiness, who bave and oot always without reason) filed them alongside time-wasters such as Barenaked Ladies and The Beautiful South. should have another look, if for no other reason than that 1999 could be a lousy year for anyone who continues to find this band objectionable. They are, at last, playing to their strengths, and those strengths are formidable.



ANDREW MUELLER Ben Folds Five: playing to their strengths

"A FEAST OF FINE ACTING ESPECIALLY BY DAMES JUDI AND MAGGIE."

"Amusing and touching"

"Gracious and charming" gonathan Rownney - THE GUMRDIAN

"Cher is brilliant"

JUDI DENCH

JOAN PLOWRIGHT

MAGGIE SMITH

LILY TOMLIN

AFRANCO ZEFFIRELLIFILM

Tea with Mussolini,



NOW SHOWING AT SELECTED CINEMAS

One and one is one: Joi simplify the maths

They blend hip hop beats with Asian rhythms and have deigned to make a fourth album. Kula Shaker beware. By Jane Cornwell

EVEN JOI admit that four albums in 10 years isn't exactly prolific. But the Bengali duo bave always been fussy: developing a new musical style takes time. Their ongoing search lends an Eastern feel to breakbeat workouts, experimental techno numbers and mystical instrumentals, which Joi perform as either a live band, complete with vocalists and dancers, or as a sound system. Their sound-system sets are one-offs: DATs are mixed with vinyl and online samples; tablas, flutes, bongos and sitar drones are played in live.

Where this freewheeling East/West aesthetic ends up is anyone's guess; clubbers have been mesmerised for up to seven hours at a stretch. Tapes are not for sale. You want to bear Joi, you go to the gig. Except. that is, when they deem otherwise.

We choose when we release our music," insist Joi's Farook and Haroon Shamsher, "like we choose to mould a record which represents us." So, after three low-key releases, constant club residencies (in blpper-thanthou venues such as Brixton's Dog Star) and much biding of time, the duo chose to sign with Peter Gabriel's bands-off Real World label last year.

Taking its title from a metaphysical Bengali poem, their forthcoming opus. One And One Is One, fuses breakbeats and hip hop with traditional Asian forms. As with their live work, the album has been crafted to take the listener on a journey. It is, they say, a "complete Joi experience".

Well, that's what 30-year-old Farook says. His brother, Haroon, the elder by three years, hasn't turned up for the interview in a coffee shop off Brick Lane. The staff have put on Joi's new CD as compensa-



Joi: brothers in spiritual fusion familiar faces here, continuing to derive inspiration from the

East-End Bengali community. For them, the recent influx of creatives to the nearby Truman Brewery offices - where fellow-Asian muso Talvin Singh is based - is but a bonus. Joi have been mixing Eastern and Western cultures for as long as

they can remember. "Our dad ran a traditional music shop just around the corner from here," says Farook. Twenty years ago be'd have jamming sessions and record in a back room with Baul artists and different people. Then he'd sell the tapes directly on to the street." The young brothers

manipulated sequencers and echo chambers for their father in between playing tablas and flutes. "We still have the same crossover vibe. It's a natural fusion of growing up listening to people such as Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, and being influenced

by reggae, hip hop and soul."
In 1983, they mixed these dements together and began Djing at clubs as the Joi Bangla Sound System, before becoming the more dance-oriented Joi six years later. Bolstered by Arts Council funding and aiming to promote Bengali youth culture, Joi Bangla events were open to young and old alike. "We used to scratch and rap

and mess about," remembers Farook. "We'd mix traditional music with James Brown riffs and get these funky soul breakbeats. Asian parents couldn't quite come to grips with it, but that's changing. Second-gen-eration kids will be different."

Much respect is due to pioneers such as Talvin Singh, Cornersbop and Asian Dub Foundation. "They've given Asian youth an identity and culture within their own culture. which is why Joi Bangla was set up." Joi, however, bave eschewed any bandwagon jumping, choosing to wait until now to release their album. "This sudden interest in Asian music is an honourable thing, but being part of a trend means you can get lost. Ultimately, Haroon and I are artists. We express ourselves in our own way."

Farook's magnanimity extends, albeit temporarily, to those arch-appropriators of Eastern mysticism, Kula Shaker. 'As long as they don't do anything blasphemous. If they start thinking that sound is theirs,

then it's not right." Similarly, Madonna's musical forays into the East are all well and good, but the time has come for a bona fide equivalent Why can't we have a beautiful Asian woman as a megastar? Her voice and spirituality could be 10 times more powerful than anything Madonna and the rest can do." Joi's spirituality is born, not made. "Sufi music and sitar ragas are pure psyche-

delia," says Farook Joi are intent on preserving tradition by transforming it. "We're about politics, race, religion, and music all-in-one," he says. "It's taken us a long time to form this music. We've been choosy. We hope people will choose to listen to us."

'One And One is One' is out on Real World, Mon

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, composer produced in 1966 importants there manipulation Paul Westerberg's songs inspired grunge. Not that he gets the credit. Is he gloomy? Yes. But happy to be left alone. By Andrew Mueller

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The ballad of a sad man

spiritual base of modern American rock'n'roll is Seattle, the city that hosted the grunge renaissance of the early-Nineties. The unlikely truth, bowever, non-descript city that seems to be made up of high-rise car parks. Without the influence of two bands that blossomed here in the Eighties, grunge would never have happened. Hüsker Dü patented the sound - the souped-up electric guitar that sounded like an angrily revving bomber and The Replacements invented the attitude - the integrity. commitment and long-term career sense of a kamikaze squadron.

"Oh, probably," says Paul Westerberg, and fidgets with his coffee cup. Westerberg, a quiet and modest man who gives the impression of being shorter than be actually is, was The Replacements' singer and songwriter. "It was the irony of someone who is basically shy and elusive choosing a career that involves becoming a public figure. I was sure from the beginning that it was something I didn't want to cultivate. It's funny... there are people,

tivate, if it suits your lifestyle, and it does mine. I sit at bome, do my work, play with my little boy, do what I prefer to do, and it seems to enhance might be that it is Minneapolis, a this supposed image... the reclusive elder statesman. Fine.

Neither for the first nor last time, Westerberg is trying to explain to someone who thinks The Replacements were one of the greatest bands ever, and Westerberg one of the finest songwriters alive, why he isn't rich, famous, and bracketed alongside Bob Dylan, Brian Wilson and Jimmy Webb. We're talking about Westerberg's third solo album, Suicaine Gratifaction, which is as good a record as he's made - which is as high as praise gets. "Thanks." he says, genuinely and uncomfortably. "I appreciate that."

Such was the commercial and critical disrepair of Westerberg's career at one point that Suicaine Gratifaction - the title is symptomatic both of Westerberg's dyslexia and restless linguistic playfulness was almost never made. After exhaustively touring his second solo album, 1996's Eventually - a fierce,

t is commonly held that the such as Greta Garbo or Leonard intelligent, and shockingly under-Cohen, who become famous for not rated record even by Westerberg's showing up. That's something to cul-standards - he suffered what he describes as a full-scale breakdown.

"in a way," he says, "Eventually was a precursor to the breakdown, On this record, it's already bere, so it's a question of whether I go the next step - kill myself, withdraw from music, or keep my wits together and work, which means write, even if it's about death and suicide. But, you know, I'm still alive, I'm still going. So it couldn't have got too bad." Westerberg mutters all this with

that has informed many of his best songs over the years, but there's no doubt that he's hauled Suicaine Gratifaction up from forbidding depths - spiritually and literally. The album was written, and mostly recorded, in Westerberg's basement, and producer Don Was, to his eternal credit, seems hardly to have produced the songs at all. The result is that the unbeat numbers rock with a ferocity comparable with anything The Replacements managed, and the ballads sound like what they are: the lonely, late-night musings of a man approaching 40 and wonder-



'I'm not bitter that it should have been me,' says the former Replacements singer/songwriter

"That did fuel the urgency of days at bome, wandering the house ing public. He finally asks to leave these soogs. I'm 39, and I don't with his guitar around his neck and the café because he thinks the staff go back to sweeping floors, I guess." a certain redemptive optimism, even if it is only in the sense of looking up from as low a point as a person can

bave a skill. This is what I do. If oo- his 10-month-old son, Johnny-Paul, body wants it, I'm in trouble. I could strapped to his back. He wants his new record "to sell as many as it can Westerberg is pleased by the while doing as little as possible", and suggestion that his new record has laughingly denies that the song on the new album with the chorus "I was the last thing you ever wanted and the best thing you never had" reach. He says be likes spending his is directed towards the record-buy-

have recognised him and might put on one of his old records.

"There's a picture a lot of people paint that they want me to agree with," be says, "but I can't saddle up to the notion that I'm bitter and it should bave been me. I'm glad it wasn't me. I'm glad I don't have to be one thing for ever."

REPLACEMENT REPLACEMENTS

NIRVANA

Kurt Cobain cited Westerberg as a spiritual and musical inspiration; "Smells Like Teen Spirit" was an echo of Tbe Replacements' anti-anthem We'll Inherit The Earth".

GREEN DAY

"Good Riddance", their recent foray into balladry, was an attempt to make the same stylistic leap as The Replacements from noisy adolescents to proper songwriters.

GOO GOO DOLLS

They bave never concealed the debt they owe The Replacements - after hitting it big they asked Westerberg to write a song

'HEATHERS'

A film, granted, but possibly the most eloquent testament to the devotion that The Replacements inspire in those devoted to them. Michael Lehmann's brutal Gen-X satire takes place in a school called Westerberg High, and Christian Slater's last words before martyring himself with a bome-made bomb are "Colour me impressed" - the title of a Replacements' song.

The general theory of relativity

Dark Star were born from Levitation's ashes. Which is as melodramatic as it sounds. By Fiona Sturges

SOME BANDS make you feel pensive, awakening far-off memories and cherished moments that until then seemed irretrievable. Others cause your stomach to surge in a wave of nervous excitement, the same feeling you get when you are about to embark on something dangerous or frightening. Some even make you swell with pride, as if you have been privy to the creation of something very special.

Dark Star manage to do all these things. Watching them live Ignites a series of contrasting emotions that would cost hundreds of pounds to thrash out in therapy. They infuse the grubbiest venues with a semi-religious ambience - an atmosphere Bickers, copped a strop halfway lights and candles that bathe the band in a celestial glow - while their tortured melodies, undulating instrumentals and wilfully abrasive distortions create a vast sound that leaves you both exhilarated and ex-

hausted, your senses lying shattered at your feet. The band are set to release a

debut album, Twenty Twenty Sound, a collection of songs "borne out of pain, penury and a basement in Clerkenwell" that endeavours to recreate the beightened atmospherics of their live shows.

Singer-guitarist Bic Hayes,

bassist Laurence O'Keefe and drummer Dave Francolini are the remaining fallout from the sombre early Nineties outfit, Levitation. This enigmatic band were known for their impassioned live performances. But in 1994, their notoriously-unhinged frontman, Terry dramatic exit to the one be had performed in 1990 as guitarist with The House Of Love. The remaining three band members were left standing on stage, slack-jawed in disbelief. They haven't seen Bickers since.

soldiered on for a few months, then admitted defeat and went their separate ways. Hayes began work with Heather Nova and All About Eve's Julianne Regan, while O'Keefe collaborated with Dead Can Dance's Brendon Perry, Wholly disillusioned, Francolini stopped playing altogether "After a while, you don't

want to get out of bed for the

But it was Francolini who suggested they start working together again in 1996. "There was always this sense of unfinished business," he explains. And Bickers? "Our paths will no doubt cross one day," be says, with a glint in his eye.

aggravation," he says.

demise, they were besitant to throw themselves into a new band, but their epipbany arrived one evening when they went to see Sonic Youth. ories are too colossal to be ignored." "They were totally inspiring and the old enthusiasm came flooding ble to extricate their experiences

Hayes, O'Keefe and Francolini back," explains Francolini, "We booked a studio the next day and started rehearsals.

The band advertised for a new singer, but after several auditions they gave up. As a result, Hayes took over vocals, a position with which be still seems uncomfortable. "The vocals have always been secondary to the music," he mutters. But despite his bashfulness, Hayes's haunted vocals fit perfectly with the epic melodrama that characterises Dark Star's music.

Named after an invisible star known only to exist from observation of its gravitational effect. Dark Star's musical aspirations are as lofty as from a rehearsal strategy that is fatheir name. "We are a very insular hand who are totally h ed un with childhood memories, our adult experiences and the bands that we like," offers O'Keefe. "Some mem-

Dark Star have found it impossi-

with Levitation from their present endeavour. Such self-absorption could put them in danger of alienating their audience, but the three of them are adamant that people won't be lost along the way.

'We want a co-operative atmosphere where the audience are as involved as we are," says Francolini. This may seem a lot to ask from a roomful of complete strangers, but ultimately it is their trump card. From their first gigs supporting Mercury Rev last autumn, they began making waves with their ferocious performances.

Their freewheeling sound stems natically improvisational, and separates them from their produced contemporaries.

"We don't adhere to the usual pop formula - verse, chorus, verse, chorus, middle-eight, end. We just turn the tape on and play," explains Hayes. This modus operandi echoes

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a bost of Seventies prog outfits to doesn't quite match the feral intenwhom Dark Star acknowledge a sity of the live experience, it has the debt, though their sound owes as much to the bazy psychedelia of the tament to Dark Star's agonised in-Sixties. Indeed, Levitation were ception, It's the kind of record that renowned for their parcotic excess ble for the meandering nature of their music. "Binge there, done that," quips O'Keefe. "It's great to have that perspective, but it's not ac-

While Twenty Twenty Sound

same sense of drama and bears tesdemands fierce concentration, maxwander in a million directions at once. Put simply by O'Keefe, "It's a document of where we were then.

Twenty Twenty Sound' is out on Harvest Records on 19 April

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new work by John Tavener commissioned by The Academy of Ancient Music? What's going on? By Nick Kimberley

Contemporary music, but with period sounds

is today's orthodoxy, not least when it comes to bow we perform and listen to music. In the case veriod instruments, for example, gal resistance has given way to sacknowledgement that if you ty Bach, Mozart or Beethoven on winstruments the composers tiw, with the techniques they lognised, you may get closer to at they wanted, which may also and better to contemporary ears. bse practises now occupy the mu-SI mainstream, which they cergly didn't in 1973, when tistopher Hogwood founded the cdemy of Ancient Music. loog ognised as one of Britain's land cefore the world's) leading iod-instrument orchestras. caul Goodwin, who in the early rs played oboe with the Academy, ame its Associate Conductor in 3. For him, period-instrument formance embraces an accepte of recurring change, reflected ne history of his own instrument: e baroque oboe works beautifully solo instrument, it can play as thy as a flute or as loudly as a npet. After the baroque era, the and for what was called

An orchestra of TEarly instruments is very much an resrchestra of today

moniemusik required a wind

a different sound to blend with

on, which oecessitated an oboe

firsoons and borns. Then 19th-cenar/ chromaticism made extra keys veessary, which in turn meant nging the wood of the instrument stthat it didn't crack, and that of aged the sound still further. The mhestra gets bigger, the pitch at Fch it plays goes up, so you need mruments with a more penetratstsound. There is a continuum of otelopment, and it is only in the last ears that what we think of as the dern oboe has become standised. It is not a question of ses and minuses but of horses for

Thus the oboe embodies a symsis between aesthetics and techogy. Although few practitioners longer claim definitive autheny the movement has changed the we bear "ancient" music. And ime passes, the "ancient" comes r closer. Brahms and Mahler, ar and Holst have all received iod-instrument performances. w, in a further twist, contempocomposers have heard what iod instruments can do, like at they bear, and have started ting for them. The Academy of rient Music has commissioned a v work, Eternity's Sunrise, from in Tavener, its recording of which pears this week on CD: thus ient becomes modern.



For Paul Goodwin, this confirms to modernity, John Tavener might be expected to feel at bome with the that "an orchestra of early instruments is an orchestra of today. Of baroque, but be confesses: "In artistic terms, the high baroque is course, there are technical limits. Early instruments can't scream all not my favourite period: Austrian churches, Brompton Oratory, all of over the place, they can't play really loudly. Those are things that modern that I find hideous. What I love, instruments do better with their though, is Bach, more than any fantastic intonation, their ability to other Western composer. I try to make very clear sounds within listen to one Bach cantata every day. I love the way he uses baroque flutes. complex textures, and to zap around the baroque oboe, so I was excited serial lines. The sort of music that avant-garde composers have written by the possibility of those instruments. They have a more sober sound-world than their modern makes use of the extremes that are available to modern instruments. Early instruments offer a different equivalents. I didn't, though, feel it was a question of adapting my palette, greater flexibility in certain areas, in some cases an ability to music. What I used in Eternity's bend the ootes more, and there are Sunrise was two flutes, two oboes, lute, bells and baroque strings, with virtuosic early-instrument perone voice, Patricia Rozario, who formers who can do all sorts of wild

has sung a lot of my music. I love the

lightness in her voice: I don't want

to mention names but I'm not keen on some specialist baroque singers who sing completely without vibrato. That I find uninteresting, dead."

The piece takes its text from William Blake (" ... He who kisses the joy as it flies ... lives in Eternity's sunrise"). The composer recalls: "I've always loved Blake's concept of this world being a mirror of the divine, with man having mucked this paradise up so that we're hardly fit to live it any more. Music is one of the few things that can beal that situation, although I'm not sure for how long." Tavener began to think about using the text shortly after the death of his father; then Goodwin suggested that he might use old instruments: "Paul came to see me in the week of Princess Diana's death, and I sensed a kind of synchronicity, so I dedicated the to present a complete concert of new

piece to her memory." (Tavener's Song for Athene was performed at Diana's funeral.)

Paul Goodwin is delighted with the results: "From the beginning, John was keen that Eternity's Sunrise should work for these instruments, and if you heard it played on modern instruments, I don't thing it would be as successful. It needs the veiled sound of gut strings, the less focused woody timbres of baroque flute and piccolo, and that haunting quality you get from a baroque oboe. Although it could only ever be a small part of what we do. I'd like to commission a new work every year. What interests us is to see how someone might write for those sounds today. but we're not interested in any kind of pasticcio. Wouldn't it be fantastic

music written for period instruments? I can foresee that bappening. So often with new music, the première is also the dernière. What we want is pieces, like Eternity's Sunrise, that will go into our

repertoire." The success of period instruments in their "natural" repertoire make it logical that composers, who work with what is available so as to imagine what isn't, should embrace them. While some deride this as post-modern, pre-millennial delirium, in which history disappears up its own fundament, others will welcome these antique timbres into the modern sound-world.

The Academy of Ancient Music's recording of John Tavener's music is available on Harmonia Mundi HUM907231

Bridge to the future

REVIEW

WIGMORE HALL

FRANK BRIDGE can still be called a neglected composer, so in naming themselves after him, the Bridge String Quartet are making a statement. Bridge was Britten's teacher, and a progressive at a time when the musical establishment in this country was insular. He played viola in the first London performance of Debussy's Quartet, and his own. . Third Quartet of 1926 was given its first performance in Vienna by the Kolisch Quartet who also gave the first performances of a dazzling list of works by Schoenberg, Berg, Webern and Bartok.

It doesn't take a chauvinist to judge Bridge worthy of this company, and his Third Quartet was by far the most challenging and masterly work in the Bridge Quartet's Wigmore Hall concert in London on Wednesday. Its first movement is warmly romantic, lyrical and complex, yet it doesn't suggest any other composer - not even Scriabin or Berg the two names most often invoked in connection with Bridge.

The sophisticated harmonies of the muted middle movement are punctuated by two rising plucked notes on the viola, Bridge's own instrument, which are finally extended to three on the cello, landmarking the musical scenery in a way which is helpful without eeming contrived.

The crowning glory is the final movement, the most powerfully driven and also the most crowded with ideas. And Bridge doesn't allow himself a facile, up-tempo conclusion, but ends with a slow epilogue that is thought-provoking rather than sentimental

The Bridge Quartet had un-earthed from the British Library two surviving movements of a quartet that Delius wrote in 1888, the year he left the Leipzig Conservatory, and this was the European première. One movement is slow, with a lilting section briefly recalling Grieg, Delius's mentor. The other is faster yet not really fast music – and ends with a strange, repeated phrase built up ominously over a trill. Apart from the predominance of triple time, Delius's mature style is nowhere apparent, yet the music is not an academic exercise either.

Twenty eight years later, Delius music which gave quartet players any significant amount of independence. Yet his mature String Quartet of 1916 is characteristic of his harmonic subtlety and melodic freshness from the very first bar. The fourth and final movement floats long ribbons of melody in a way that makes a formal conclusion improbable, and the ending is just as strange and unexpected as in the student work.

The Quartet's scherzo and slow movement are both simple tripartite designs, and Delius gives his superb ear for colour freer play. They are also less thickly written than the outer movements.

As an encore, the Bridge Quartet played Percy Grainger's arrangement of "Molly on the Shore", in which each member enjoyed a solo spot without bogging the limelight.

THE COMPACT COLLECTION

ROB COWAN ON THE WEEK'S NEW CD RELEASES

WHEN A record company asks one of its top-ranking artists to tackle key repertory for the third or fourth time, cynics invariably suspect money to be the real cause. But in the case of Alfred Breodel whose fourth complete recording of Beethoven's piano concertos has just been issued on the Philips label - "latest" almost certainly means "best".

Brendel is widely celebrated for his thoughtfulness, sensitivity and integrity, though not always for his spontaneity. at least not in the recording studio. Here there's spontaneity in abundance. Specific points of reference are too numerous to list, but I should mention at least a few. Take the Emperor Concerto, and listen, say, 12 minutes 48 seconds into the first movement where the strings engage in a tense build-up before Sir Simon Rattle pushes on the brakes and Brendel races in with controlled flamboyance.

At the beginning of the Fourth Concerto, Brendel makes a matchlessly poised

idea and Rattle pauses for a brief moment before cueing his strings to recall the same theme in a "brighter" key. And I shouldn't forget the first movement of the First Concerto (eight minutes in), where Brendel coojures the rarest musical magic out of the simplest descending scale passage. The frisson created

statement of the opening

and wonderful things."

As a composer famously resistant

between Brendel's articulate pianism, Rattle's dynamic conducting and the Vienna Philharmonic's team-spirited playing. makes for one of the finest - and best-recorded -Beethoven concerto cycles to appear this side of the digital divide.

Similar claims could be made on behalf of Mikhail Pletney and his Russian National Orchestra for the most impressive available digital recording of Tchaikovsky's Sleeping Beauty ballet. Pletnev. like Brendel is a thinking musician first and foremost and his supple, tidy-minded and essentially introvert reading makes one realise afresh why Stravinsky was so besotted with this

wonderful piece. The many shorter numbers have a pungent, occasionally even sinister, quality that recalls the great symphonies. though the epic sweep of Tchaikovsky's expansive melodies is never underplayed. Furthermore, there are

countless instances where Pletnev's "stereophonic" placing of first and second violins (to the left and right of the sound-stage adds immeasurably to the musical effect. The strings recall the beyday of Mravinsky's Leningrad Philharmonic and if Antal Dorati (on Philips, analogue) is perhaps a tad more theatre-conscious, Pletney remains faithful to both the letter and the spirit of the score. Generous disc timings, too,

at 79'01" and 80'00". Connecting with the musical "spirit" is a prominent feature on EMI's latest low-price "Début" CDs (where promising young artists are showcased), though choosing between individual releases has proved extremely difficult.

For me, the final cootest was between mezzosoprano Katarina Karnéus in selected lieder (such a radiant voice: and cellist Alban Gerhardt in a programme of original or transcribed pieces by Piazzolla, Falla, Granados. Alhéniz and Cassado. My vote goes to

Gerhardt, partially because his playing is so imaginative and assured. though the choice of repertoire also helps. I bad never previously heard of a cello-and-piano transcription of Ravel's playful Alborada del gracioso by Mario Castelnuovo Tedesco, and even if had, I could never have imagined it working. And yet it does, wonderfully well, and the performance is brilliant in the extreme. Gerhardt's excellent pianist is Rina Dokshinsky.

Beethoven/Brendel, Rottle: Philips 462 781-2 (three Tchaikovsky/Pletnev: Deutsche Grammophon 457 634-2 (two discs) Ravel, etc/ Gerhardt: EMI CDZ5 73164 2

ON THE AIR

LAST MONDAY Classic FM published the results of its fourth annual Hall of Fame poll, ranking listeners' top 300 preferences, with Max Bruch's Violin Concerto Nol in G Minor duly emerging yet again as "without doubt, the nation's all-time favourite classical work".

Meanwhile, last Saturday afternoon, Radio 3 launched a new two-hour record request series, fronted by Humphrey Carpenter and entitled Listeners' Choice with, believe it or not, Max Bruch's Violin Con-

cert No1 in G Minor. No doubt both exercises are intended to foster a sense of "listener involvement". In reality, just as the Classic FM poll largely confirms what the network already plugs, so the Radio 3 process is likely to result in the same kind of record miscellany as individual producers already throw together for On Air, In Tune et al - that is, for all listeners except the tiny minority whose requests

actually get beard. Indeed, one might wonder at the institution of Listeners Choice under a new Radio 3 Controller, Roger Wright, pledged to counter the dash for "access" - whatever the

cultural cost - by restoring the network's seriousness and But then, several of the

functionaries under Nicholas Kenyon's controllership - notably Brian Barfield, the managing editor of Radio 3, and Hilary Boulding. Commissioning Editor, Music (Policy) - remain in situ, and some of their decisions are evidently still working through.

Thus, CD Review, that more

doubtless reflected Radio 3's daft persistence in putting it out on weekdays at 4.45pm just the time when those listeners are most likely to be tied up in after-school music lessons, rehearsals and so on, Placed slightly later, say at 6.30, it would surely have done better - but that, of course, would have meant violating one of the network's sacred

cows. In Tune. The other, even sadder ca-

The tension between populism and elitism continues to see-saw at the BBC

urday Record Review brought in just before Wright's appointment, continues to neglect pre-Baroque and more challenging 20th century releases, while the last fortnight has seen the end of two longstanding series which, ironically, were among Kenyon's more positive innovations.

If the quirky inventiveness of The Music Machine was failing to reach sufficient of its target audience of the seriously musical young, this

mid-cult revamp of the old Sat- sualty has been the early music series Spirit of the Age, one of the few Radio 3 slots in which it has been possible to develop a cultural topic over an entire hour - that is. until recent pressure, presumably from the Commissioning Editor, Music (Policy), to chup it into shorter attention spans. showed that the writing was on the wall. Christopher Page's mesmeric unfolding of the legend of Tristan and Isolt made for a fittingly elegiac

final edition.

But both of these seriesterminations are clear losses to Radio 3's range. It would seem that the tension between populism and elitism - or as it might be more fruitfully defined, between culture as entertainment and culture as the pursuit of understanding - continues to see-saw, as ever, at the BBC.

Indeed, last Sunday's Settling the Score feature, written by Ivan Hewett and produced by Andrew Kurowski, promised to investigate precisely that tension in the relation between modern composers and the masses. As often in this series, there were some fascinating archival clips - a youngish Tippett musing on his creative isolation, Keynes outlining the function of an Arts Council, and so on.

But the commentary never clearly defined the masses from the standpoint of class. politics, or consumption, and there seemed to be a general (if highly questionable) assumption that musical culture before the 20th century was more unified. Yet again, one was reminded that sustained exposition or argument are still the rarest commodities

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REDROOMS & HALLWAYS (15) Director: Rose Troche

Starring: Kevin McKidd, Jennifer Ehle

Bedrooms & Hallways, the latest offering from the This Life school of British film-making, sees Kevin McKidd's giddy Londoner being put through all manner of romantic hoops in the run-up to his 30th birthday. Kev's orientation arrow spins from gay to straight, his mates offer endless advice. and Simon Callow pops up as a New Agey men's group leader. Rose Troche's smooth direction and McKidd's winsome acting compensate for an often smug and lightweight script.

West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Mezzanine, UCI Whiteleys, 17rgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket. Repertury: The Pullman Everyman

A CIVIL ACTION (15) Director: Steven Zarllian

Starring: John Travolla, Robert Duvali

John Travolta's ambulance-chasing lawyer takes a shot at redemption in this complex and frequently absorbing courtroom saga that conetheless raises inevitable comparisons with Sidney Lumet's The Verdict. Culled from a true story. A Civil Action spins a David-and-Goliath-style drama, in which blue-collar locals go head to head with the big corporations who poisoned their water. Zaillian negotiates the legal intricacies with ingenuity. West End: Clapham Picture House. Empire Leicester Square, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas

THE FACULTY (15)

Director: Robert Rodriguez Starring: Elijah Wood, Shawn Hatosy See The Independent Recommends, right, West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And

HIGH ART (18)

local cinemas

on the Green

Director: Lisa Cholodenko Starring: Ally Sheedy, Radha Mitchell See The Independent Recommends, right. West End: Curzon Soho, Ritzy Cinema, Screen.

AMERICAN HISTORY X (18)

ARLINGTON ROAD (15)

West End. And local cinemas

A liberal essay on right-wing fanaticism, this

performance from Oscar-nominated Norton. West

End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington,

Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys,

Virgin Trocadero. Warner Village West End.

Mark Pellington's intriguingly staged paranoia

thriller sees Jeff Bridges' college prof becoming

suspicious about the antics of his outwardly

respectable neighbour (Tim Robbins). West End:

UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village

AN AUTUMN TALE (CONTE D'AUTOMNE) (U)

Eric Rohmer's new romantic drama is airily

elegiac and as warm as sunshine. West End-

Tugh Wilson's Cold War satire begins promis-

ingly enough, but it soon nosedives into brash

predictability. With Alicia Silverstone and Brendan

Fraser West End: Virgin Trocadero, Warner

Central Station trails Fernanda Montenegro's

retired schoolteacher and her abandoned nine-year-

old charge on a hunt for the boy's missing father.

Renoir, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street

FESTEN (THE CELEBRATION) (15)

care. West End: ABC Panton Street

Local: New Stratford Picture House

cellist) West End: ABC Ponton Street

Virgin Haymarket. And local cinemas

HILARY AND JACKIE (15)

West End: Curzon Mayfair, Gate Notting Hill,

Filmed using natural light, natural sound and

a hand-held camera, Festen begins in a rush

of pure, unfettered drama. Its rawness is largely

contrived, but by the end you're too hooked to

GODS AND MONSTERS (15)
See The Independent Recommends, above. West

End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham

Picture House, Curzon Soho, Screen on the Hill,

The Tricycle Cinema, Virgin Fulham Road

Full-throttle playing from Rachel Griffiths and

Emily Watson sustains Anand Tucker's warts-

and-all biopic of the Du Pre sisters, Hilary (shy,

married flautist) and Jacqueline (world-famous

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL (LA VITA E BELLA) (PG)

Roberto Benigni's comedy, in which the writer-

director stars as a clowning Jewish bookseller in

fascist Italy. West End: ABC Swiss Centre, Clapham

Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, Gate

Notting Hill, Curzon Minema, Odeon Kensington,

Odeon Mezzonine, Ritzu Cinemo, Screen on

protector. The whole thing is disposable Disney fluff,

yet it boasts a ready charm that's hard to dislike.

West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble

Arch Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI

Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea. And local cinemas

Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea. Local Richmond Odeon Studio

Chelsea Cinema, Curzon Saho, Renoir

Village West End. And local cinemas

CENTRAL STATION (15)

BLAST FROM THE PAST (12)

(Edward Norton). But it does boast a stunning Curzon Soho, Renoir

Director: Robert Lepage

Starring: Anne-Mane Cadleux, Alexis Martin Lepage's third feature obliquely spotlights Quebec's push for independence in 1970 with an absurdist parallel narrative that crosscuts between the trials of a troubled actress and her activist boyfriend. But its fascinating elements fail to gel; its scenes unravel; its reach exceeds its grasp. West End: ABC Swiss Centre, Barbican Screen

Director: Trey Parker Starring: Trey Parker

Orgazmo looks like the love-child of Boogie Nights and Flesh Gordon: a gambolling send-up of the porn industry. Parker stars as a Mormonturned-skin-flick-superstar; Robin Lynne plays the fiancee who stumbles upon his guilty secret. West End: Plaza

THE RED VIOLIN (15)

Director: François Gillard Starring: Samuel L Jackson, Greta Scacchi, Girard's daisy chain of historical vignettes follows the course of a cursed violin down through the centuries. Unfortunately, a thrift-shop budget leaves many of the period backdrops looking like cast offs from a BBC schools programme. More crucially, Girard's hitty narrative leaves his film labouring in third gear throughout.

West End: Barbican Screen, Odeon Haymarket, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage. Local: Hampstead ABC

SLAM (15)

GENERAL RELEASE

conetbeless indulges in some dubious Nazi chic legendary bit of screen villainy from Robert

as it charts the moral slide of a blue-collar racist Mitchum as a murderous preacher. West End:

PAYBACK (18)

Director: Marc Leven

Starring: Saul Williams, Sonja Sohn Even if slam-poetry's clanking rhymes make you want to "slam" the perpetrator's head in a car door, Marc Levin's drama still carries an emotional force. Saul Williams plays an Afro-American Everyman, busted on a drugs charge before finding freedom of expression through his rap stylings. Levin's story is preachy and simplistic; earthy and earnest. Much like slam-poetry itself.

West End: Metro, Ritzy Cinema, Local: Holloway Odeon, New Stratford Picture House

THE NIGHT OF THE HUNTER (15)

Charles Laughton's 1955 drama hinges oo a

Revisiting the source that inspired John Boorman's

Point Blank, this revenge thriller sends its

double-crossed-and-left-for-dead anti-hero (Mel

Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

End: Plaza, Warner Village West End

PLUNKETT AND MACLEANE (15)

See The Independent Recommends, above. West

Plunkett and Macleane are rakish Dick Turpins

cutting a dash through 18th-century society.

Plunkett (Robert Carlyle) packs a pistol, while

Macleane (Jonny Lee Miller) romances a debutante

(Liv Tyler). Yet instead of a decent plot, director

Jake Scott offers noise and pop-promo visuals.

West End: ABC Tottenham Cmrt Road, Clapham

Picture House, Notting Hill Coronet. Odeon

Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon

Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon

Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys.

Given the small-screen success of the Rugrats

(cartoon toddlers up to no good), a feature-length

foray was always in the offing. Kids, no doubt, will

eat this up. Adults should simply grin and bear it.

West End: Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, UCI

Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea. Virgin Trocadero,

See The Independent Recommends, above.

Franco Zeffirelli's Tea with Mussolini ambles

through its tale of dotty Brits (Maggie Smith,

Judi Dench, Joan Plowright, adrift in Mussolini-era

Tuscany. West End: Empire Leicester Square.

Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys. Repertory:

Terrence Malick's long-awaited return to

directing is a fabulous, fever-struck war film. A cast

of familiar faces (John Travolta, George Clooney)

play second fiddle to the creeping narcotic mood.

West End: Odeon Mezzanine, Virgin Haymarket.

Good news: Ned, a salt of the earth resident of

Tullymore, bas won the lottery. Bad news: Ned is

dead. Cue a rattle-bag of comedic misadventures

as two local scallywags scheme to get their paws

on the loot. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon

Kensington, Odeon Marole Arch, Odeon West

End, Virgin Chelsen. Repertory: Watermans

Arts Centre. And local cinemas

Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

Viroin Fulham Road. And local cinemas

THE RUGRATS MOVIE (U)

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (15)

Cinema, And local cinemas

TEA WITH MUSSOLINI (PG)

Phoenix Cinema And local cinemas

THE THIN RED LINE (15)

WAKING NED (PG)

Xan Brooks

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

Gods and Monsters (15)

A droll speculation on the last days of 1930s horror auteur James Whale (Ian McKellen), who is magnetised by the alluring form of his Beverly Hills gardener (Brendan Fraser). Director Bill Condon won an Oscar for Best Adapted Screenplay.

Pleasantville (12)

Two Nineties teenagers are "sucked" into the world of a favourite Fifties siteom and begin to exert a dramatic inQuence on its conformist black-and-white idyl). A witty parable about prejudice and change.

High Art (18)

A portrait of the artist as lesbian screw-up, Lisa Cholodenko's hinerly witty take on New York living (and dying) boasts one of the performances of the year from Ally Sheedy.

The Faculty (15) Kevin Williamson does it

again with this sci-fi tale of alico invaders (right). Beautiful people, a sharp script, subversive morals, Piper Laurie... Why can't all teen films be like this?

Shakespeare in Love (15)

This enjoyable, Oscar-laden historical romp suggests how romance fired Shakespeare with the inspiration for Romeo and Juliet, Joseph Figures and Gwyneth Paltrow (Best Actress) head an impressive cast,

ANTHONY QUINN AND CHARLOTTE O'SULLIVAN

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

Good (Donmar Warehouse, London) Starring Charles Dance, CP Taylor's play about accommodations with conscience is revived in a sensitive production by Michael Grandage. To 22 May

(Gielgud Theatre, London) The artfully fractured form of Moises Kaulman's compelling play (right)

Gross Indecency

about Oscar Wilde manages to present the writer in all his complex contradictoriness. Booking to 5 Jun

Forbidden Broadway

(Jermyn Street Theatre, London)

Deliciously spiteful and tremendously funny selection of musical theatre spoofs from Sondheim to The Lion King via Elaine Paige, To 16 May

(Salisbury Playhouse)

Up-and-coming director Jooatban Church signs off at Salisbury with the characteristically bold and maginative choice of an Anouilb comedy set in Paris's theatrical demi-monde, To 17 April

Uncle Vanya

(Mercury Theatre, Colchester) Gregory Floy stars in the Chekhov classic - the second leg of Mercury Theatre's brave experiment in forming a resident ensemble of actors for nine mooths of the year. To 24 April

PAUL TAYLOR

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

Jackson Pollock (Tate Gallery) Big, revelatory retrospective for the wild hero of

Abstract Expressionism (going on Old Master). legendary for his grest drip paintings, but virtually unknown here for 40 years. To 6 Jun

Portraits by Ingres (National

Gallery) Some of the smartest, most intense portraiture ever (right). Moo as icons of power, women as exquisite melanges of flesh and fabric. To 25.4pr

Henri Michaux (Whitechapel Gallery) He travelled. He wrote, He took drugs, And, inspired by grief and mescalin, he created amazing, wobbly bobbly wibbly scribbly fine-grain line drawings. To 25.4pr

Andreas Gursky (Dean Gallery, Edinburgh)

Photographs 1994-98: huge, panoramic, high-finish. micro-detailed, digitally manipulated images of our world - stock-exchange floor, cityscape, hotel foyer. Vistas of more than the eye can see. To 16 May

Antony Gormley's 'Field' (firstsite at Culver St. Colchester)

One of the great hits of the decade: a sea of 40,000 pint-sized clay men - obedient, expectant, menacing, and stopping dead in a line at your feet. To 3 May

<u>CINEMA</u>

ABC PANTON STREET

ABC PICCADILLY (0171-437 3561) ← Piccadilly Circus Affliction 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE (0870-902 0402) © Leicester Sq Bedrooms and Hallways 1,15pm, 3,30pm, 6,05pm, 8,45pm Elizabeth 1,45pm, 5,30pm, 8,25pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE 4.05pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm Jenseits der Stille 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm Nó 1.20pm, 3.10pm, 5pm, 7pm, 8.55pm La Vita è Bella 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

Gibson) on a mission to get his money back and to get even. West End: ABC Tottenham Court ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD Road, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington. Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Monsters 1.10pm, 3.50pm. 6.55pm, 9.25pm Payback 1.45pm. Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, 4.10pm, 6.35pm, 9.10pm Plunkett 6.45pm, 9.35pm

> BARBICAN SCREEN (0171-638 8891) Moorgale No 6.15pm, 8.40pm The Red Violin

CHELSEA CINEMA [0171-351 3742] → Skoane Square Conte d'Automne 1.35pm, 3.55pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE

(0171-498 3323) O Clapham Common Bedrooms and Hallways .20pm. 9.30pm A Bug's Life Inm A Civil Action 1 30pm, 4pm 6.40pm. 9.10pm Gods and Monsters 9.20pm Plunkett and Macleane Zpm, 4 20pm, 6.50pm, 9pm The 39 Steps (1935 Version) 3.20pm, 7.30pm La Vita è Bella 2pm, 4.30pm, 7pm

CURZON MAYFAIR 6.15pm, 8.45pm CURZON SOHO

CORZON SONO
(0171-734 2255 (12noon-6pm))

O Leicester Square Conte
d'Automne 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm
Gods and Monsters 4.30pm,
9.30pm High Art 2pm, 4.45pm,
7pm, 9.20pm Night of the Hunter
2.15pm, 7.15pm 2.15pm, 7.15pm EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE

(0990-888990) ← Leicester Square A Civil Action 12,45pm, 3.25pm. 6.15pm, 9pm, 11.45pm La Vita e Bella 12noon, 2.45pm, 5.45pm. West End: Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, The Tricycle 8.30pm, 11.15pm Tea with Mussolini 12.30pm, 3 15pm, 6pm, Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocodero. Repertory: Riverside Studios

> GATE NOTTING HILL (0171-727 4043) & Notting Hill Gate Central Station 1.35pm, 6.25pm The Opposite of Sex 11.15pm La Vita è Bella 3.55pm, 8.45pm

(0171-734 1506) O Piccadilly Circus Aprile 3pm. 5pm. 7pm. 6.30pm, 8 45pm CURZON MINEMA

(0171-369 1723) O Hyde Park Corner La VIta è Bella 3pm. 6.30pm, 8.50pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET (0171-727 6705] + Notting Hill 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.50pm **ODEON CAMDEN TOWN**

(08705-050007] ← Camden Town American History X 7.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.35pm, 11.20pm A Bug's Life 12.10pm The Faculty 11.50am, 2.15pm, 4.30pm. 6 45pm 9pm, 11,45pm Payback 11,45,m, 2,10pm, 4,25pm, 6,40pm, 9,05pm. 11.15pm Plunkett and Macleane 11.40am, 1.55pm, 4.10pm, 6.25pm. 8.40pm, 11.50pm This Year's Love 12.20pm, 8.40pm, 11.25pm Waking Ned 2.35pm. 6.50pm

ODEON HAYMARKET (08705-050007) & Piccadilly Circus The Red Violin 2pm. 5.30pm, 8.25pm ODEON KENSINGTON

12,05am Bedrooms and Hallways 2 50pm, 5,15pm, 7,40pm, 10,05pm, 12,30am A Bug's Life 1pm The Faculty 1,30pm, 4pm, 6,40pm, 9,20pm, 12midoighi Mighty Joe 12,10pm Payback 7 15pm, 9,50pm, 12,25am Plunket and Madagas 2pm, 4,20pm, 6,55pm 9.30pm, 12.25am Pulnkert and Macleane 2pm, 4.30pm, 6.55pm, 9.25pm, 12.05am The Red Violin 12.05pm, 3.10pm, 6.15pm, 9.20pm La Vita è Bella 3.50pm, 6.35pm, 9.20pm, 12.05am Waking Ned 2.45pm, 5pm

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE

ODEON MARBLE ARCH (08705-050007) & Marble Arch A Bug's Life 12noon The Faculty 1pm, 3.35pm, 6.10pm, 8.55pm, 11.30pm Mighty Цfе Joe 1.10pm, 3.50pm Payback 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.25pm, 9.05pm, 11.35pm Plunkett and Macleane 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.15pm, 11.35pm The Rugrats Movie 1.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.05pm Shakespeare in Love

6.70pm. 9.10pm Waking Ned

ODEON MEZZANINE

2.10pm, 4.15pm, 6.25pm, 8.35pm A Bug's Life 2pm, 4.10pm Elizabeth 12.35pm, 3.05pm, .35pm. 8.20pm La Vita è Bella 12.45pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.40pm The Thin Red Line 12.55pm, 4.15pm, 7.40pm This Year's Love 6.20pm, 8 40pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE and Macleane 1.15pm. 3.45pm. 6.15pm. 8.45pm The Red Violin 12.05pm. 2.45pm. 5.30pm. 12.05pm, 2 45pm, 8.20pm Shakespeare in Love 3pm, 5 45pm 8.25pm Tea with 5 45pm. 8.25pm Tea with Mussolini 12 30pm. 3.10pm.

ODEON WEST END 4 05pm, 6.35pm, 9pm

5 50pm, 8.30pm

PEPSI IMAX CINEMA (0171-494 41531 Piccadilly Circus Blue Planet 12.35pm Everest 4.45pm, 9.05pm (+ short More) L5 · The First City in Space (3-D) 2.40pm. 7pm T-Rev: Back to the Cretaceous (3-D) 11 30am, 1.35pm, 3.40pm, 5.50pm, 8pm, 10 10pm

PLAZA [0990-888990] Piccadilly Circus Orgazmo 12 45pm, 3,15pm, 5 30pm, 8pm Parch Adams 12.30pm, 5.45pm Pleasantville 3pm, 8.30pm Saving Private Ryan 12.15pm, 4.15pm, 7.45pm Shakespeare in Love 12 noon. 2.45pm. 6pm. 8 50pm

Conte d'Automne 3.55pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm Central Station 1.15pm. 6 40pm Night of the Hunter 4,35pm, 9pm RITZY CINEMA

(0171-733 2229) BR/O Brixton

RENOIR

American History X 9.30pm. 12midnight Central Station 2.05pm. 6.50pm High Art 12.30pm. 7.45pm. 5pm, 7.10pm. 9.25pm, 11.35pm (+ short Angel) Insomnia 1pm Plunkett and Macleane 12.10pm, 2.25pm. 4.45pm. / 05pm. 9.20pm. 11 40pm (+ shott Anthrakatis) The Rugrats Movie 12 45pm. 2 35pm, 4 25pm Shakespeare in Love 7pm Slam 2.55pm, 5 05pm. 7 15pm. 9 30pm. 11 50pm This Year's Love 11 45pm La Vita e Bella 4 20pm, 9,10pm

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET (0171-935 2772) Baker Street Central Station 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm La Vita è Bella 3.40pm. 6.10pm, 8.35pm

SCREEN ON THE GREEN (0171-226 3520) & Angel High Art 3.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm (+ short Eva) SCREEN ON THE HILL

(0171-435 3366) → Belsize Park Gods and Monsters 3.20pm. 6.40pm, 8.55pm THE TRICYCLE CINEMA
(0171-328 1000)

A Bug's Life 1,30pm, 4pm Gods
and Monsters 4pm, 9.15pm
Shakespeare in Love 7pm

UCI WHITELEYS

OCI WHITELEYS
(0870-603 4567) ⊕ Bayswater
American History X phone for
times Arlington Road phone for
times Bedrooms and Hallways
11.45am, 2pm, 4.30pm, 7.10pm,
9.45pm A Bug's Life phone for
times A Civil Action 10.45am,
1.15pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm
The Faculty 1.45pm, 4.20pm,
7pm, 9.25pm La Vita è Bella
12ncon, 3.10pm, 6pm, 8.50pm
Mighty Joe phone for times
Payback phone for times
Payback phone for times
The Rugrats Movie 12.30pm, 2.40pm, 4.50pm Shakespeare in Love phone for times Tea with Mussolini phone for times

VIRGIN CHELSEA

A Civil Action 3pm. 6.30pm. 9pm The Faculty Ipm. 3.45pm. 6.15pm. 8.45pm La Vita è Bella 3 15pm, 6pm, 8,30pm Mighty Joe 12.45pm The Rugrats Movie 12.15pm, 7pm, 3.55pm Waking Ned 5.45pm, 8.15pm

VIRGIN FULHAM ROAD (0870-907 0711) South Kensington Bedrooms and Hallways 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm Gods and Monsters 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm Payback 1.40pm, 4 10pm, 6.50pm, 9.70pm Plunkett and Macleane 12.10pm. 2.30pm, 4.50pm. Love 2pm, 5.30pm Shakespeare in Love 2pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm You've Got M@il 2.40pm, 5.20pm, 8pm

VIRGIN HAYMARKET (0870-907 07121 Piccadilly Circus Bedrooms and Hallways 3.15pm. 6.45pm. 9.15pm The Thin Red Line 2.45pm. 8pm La Vita è Bella 2pm. 6.15pm, 9pm VIRGIN TROCADERO

(0870-907 0716) Piccadilly Circus American History X 8.10pm, 11.30pm Arlington Road 6pm, 8.30pm Blast from the Past 12.40pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm A Bug's Life 12 15pm A Civil Action 12.05pm, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9pm The Exorcist (25th

6.45pm, 9pm The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 11 35pm The Faculty 12 10pm, 2.25pm, 4 35pm, 6.50pm, 9.05pm, 11 30pm Payback 12noon, 2.55pm, 5.55pm, 11.25pm The Rugrats Movie 11.55am, 1.50pm, 3.50pm Shakespeare In Love 12.35pm, 3.05pm, 5.45pm, 6.25pm, 11.15pm The Twee Chairsaw Massaure The Texas Chainsaw Massacre 2 20pm, 4.25pm, 6.40pm, 8.45pm, 40pm Urban Legend 11.40pm WARNER VILLAGE WEST END (0171-437 4343) O Leicester Square American History X 30pm, 3 15pm, 6.20pm 9.05pm,

11 45pm Arlington Road 12.20pm, 3.10pm, 6.15pm, 9.10pm, 11.55pm Blast from the Past 12.55pm, 3.25pm, 6.05pm, 8.40pm, 11.10pm Bug's Life 12.20pm. 2.35pm 4.50pm The Faculty 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm, 11.30pm Lock, 5tock & Two Smoking Barrets 12 10am The Opposite of Sex 9 45pm Payback 11.30am, 1pm, 2pm, 3.30pm, 4.30pm, 6pm, 7pm. 9.30pm, £ 30pm. 1?midnighi Pleasantville 9.20pm The Rugrats Movie 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm Urban Legend 11.50pm You've Got M@il 3.30pm. 6.10pm. 8,50pm, 11,30pm

CINEMA LONDON LOCALS

PARK ROYAL WARNER VILLAGE American History X 9 20pm, 12midnighi Artington Road 10pm, 12 30am Blast from the Past 1.10pm, 3 50pm, 6.20pm, 11 50pm A Bug's 10am, 1.20pm A 9 10pm, 11 50pm A Bug's Life 11.10am, 1.20pm A Civil Action 11 20am 2pm. 4 40pm, 7.10pm, 9.40pm, 12.20am

The Faculty 2.20pm, 4.50pm, 7.30pm, 9.50pm, 12.10am How Stella Got her Groove Back 11.40pm Jack Frost 12 noon Madeline 11.15am Mighty Joe I I am. 1.40pm, 4.15pm Payback 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9pm, 11.30pm Plunkett and Macleane I I .30am, 1.50pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm, 11.45pm The Prince of Egypt 12.30pm The Rugrats Movie 10.50am, 12.40pm, 2.30pm, 1.30pm, 6.50pm Shakespeare in Love 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm Urban Legend 11.20pm Waking Ned 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm You've Got M@lf 7.20pm

BARNET ODEON (08705-050007) + High Bar-ODEON (08705-050007) & High Barnet A Bug's Life 1pm The Faculty 4pm. 6.20pm, 8.30pm Mighty Joe 12.30pm, 2.45pm Payback 6.50pm, 8.50pm Plunkett and Macleane 1.30pm, 4.15pm, 7pm, 9pm The Rugrats Movie 12noon, 2pm, 5pm, 6.40pm Shakespeare in Love 8.45pm La Vita è Belfa 1.45pm Waking Ned 2.50pm, 4.45pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm

ABC (0870-902 0412) BR: Beckenham Junction A Bug's Life 12.10pm, 2.15pm, 4.30pm The Faculty 2.20pm, 6.35pm, 8.50pm Madeline 12.15pm, 4.35pm Plun-kett and Madeane 7.10pm, 9.40pm The Rugrats Movie 1.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.10pm Shakespeare in Love 6.35pm, 9.20pm

BEXLEYHEATH

BEXLEYHEATH
CINEWORLD (0181-303 1550)
BR Bedeyheath The Acid House Wed
4.30pm, 9.30pm Blast from the Past
2.30pm, 5.05pm, 7.30pm, 9.50pm,
12.20am A Bug's Life 11am, 1pm,
3pm A Civil Action 1.30pm, 4.05pm,
6.40pm, 9.20pm, 11.55pm The Faculty 1.55pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm,
9.15pm, 11.30pm Jack Frost 12noon
Madellne 11.30am Mighty Joe
11.30am, 2pm, 7pm Patth Adams
4.30pm, 9.30pm Payback 2.20pm,
4.40pm, 7pm, 9.20pm, 10pm,
11.40pm, 12.10am Plunkett and
Macleane 12.20pm, 4.50pm, Macleane 12.20pm. 4.50pm. 7.20pm, 9.35pm, 12midnight The Rugrats Movie 11.05am, 11.50am, 1pm, 1.50pm, 2.55pm, 4pm, 6pm, 8pm Shakespeare In Love 5pm, 7.30pm, 9.55pm, 12.20am Waking Ned 1.45pm, 3.45pm, 5.45pm 7.45pm, 9.45pm, 12.05pm

BROMLEY **ODEON** (08705-050007) BR: Bromley North A Bug's Life 12noon The Faculty 2.30pm, 5pm, 7.30pm, 9.55pm Mighty Joe 12.40pm, 3.05pm, 4.50pm Payback 7.10pm, 9.30pm Plunkett and Macleane 1.15pm, 3.55pm, 7.20pm, 10pm The Rugrats Movie 12.55pm, 3.10pm, 5.20pm, 7.40pm Waking Ned 9.50pm

CATFORD ABC (0181-461 1278) BR: Carford A Bug's Life 12.30pm The Faculty 2.45pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm Plunkett and Macleane 6.10pm, 8.40pm The Rugrats Movie 12.15pm, 2.15pm, 4.15pm

SAFARI (0181-688 3422) BR; West Croydon Aarzoo 10.45pm A Bug's Life 12.30pm A Civil Action 5.20pm, 8.20pm The Faculty 5.30pm, 8.10pm International Khiladi 10.45pm Jaanam Samiha Karo 8pm, 11,15pm Mighty Joe 12.20pm, 2.40pm The Rugrats Movie 1pm, 3.10pm Waking Ned 2.45pm, 5.35pm

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-680 8090) BR: East Croydon Arlington Road 8.50pm Blast from the Past 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm, 11.15pm A Bug's Life 10.45am. 12.50pm, 2.55pm A Civil Action 1.50cm, 4.20cm, 6.50cm, 9.15cm. 11.50pm The Faculty 5.10pm, 7.30pm, 9.50pm, 12.10am Jack Frost 10.40am Madeline 10.50am Mighty Joe 11.40am, 2.10pm. 4.40pm Payback 11.20am, 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 9pm, 11.30pm 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 7.20pm, 9.40pm, 11.20pm, 12midnight The Prince of Egypt 11.30am The Rugrats Movie 10.30am, 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 7pm Shakespeare In Love 6.10pm, 8.30pm, 11.30pm Waking Ned 1pm, 3.20pm, 5.30pm,

DAGENHAM WARNER VILLAGE (0181-592 2020) O Dagenham Heathway American History X 9.40pm. 11.40pm Arlington Road 9.50pm, 12.25am Blast from the Past 1.20pm,

7.40pm, 9.50pm, 11 55pm

A Bug's Life 10,50am. 1pm A Civil Action 1.40pm, 4.20pm, 7.10pm, 9.40pm, 12.15am The Faculty 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9pm, 11.20pm, ack Frost 11.50am Made-Ine 11.10am Mighty Joe 11am, 1.50pm, 4.25pm Payback 11.40am, 2pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm. 2pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm, 11.50pm Plunkett and Macleane 12.10pm, 2.30pm, 5pm, 7.05pm, 9.30pm, 12 midnight The Prince of Egypt 11.20am The Rugrats Movie 10.40am. 12.40pm, 2.40pm, 4.40pm, 7pm Shakespeare in Love 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm, 11.10pm Urban Legend 10.50pm Waking Ned 2.10pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm You've Got M@ll 7.20pm

EALING
VIRGIN UXBRIDGE ROAD (0870907 0719) BR/& Ealing Bloodway
A Bug's Life 1.10pm The Faculty
3.30pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm Mighty
Joe 1pm. 3.30pm Payback 6.40pm,
9pm Plunkett and Macleane
6.30pm, 8.50pm The Rugrats
Movie 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm

CORONET (0171-703 4968) ⊕ Ele-phant & Castle The Faculty 3.40pm. 6.10pm, 8.45pm Plunkett and Macleane 3.30pm. 6pm, 8.50pm

CINEWORLD THE MOVIES (0181-

867 0555) BR: Feltham Aarzoo 11.03am, 3pm, 6.20pm, 9.40pm American History X 8.30pm, 11pm Anari No 1 3.40pm, 9.15pm, 11.15pm Blast from the Past 11.20am, 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm 9pm A Bug's Life 10.30am, 12.35pm, 2.40pm A Civil Action 11.20am, 1.50pm, 4.20pm, 7pm, 9.30pm, 12.10am Dīl To Pagal Hai 11.15am, 6.05pm The Faculty 11.50am, 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm. 11.45pm International Khiladi 3.15pm, 6.30pm, 9.55pm Jaanam Samiha Karo 11.25am, 2.45pm, 6.10pm, 9.35pm, 11.30pm Jack Frost 11.40am Kuch Kuch Hota Hal 2.50pm, 9.20pm The Last Days of Disco 12.20am Madeline 10.50am, 12.50pm Mighty Joe 10.40am, 1.15pm, 3.50pm. 6.15pm Patch Adams 11am, 1.20pm, 7pm Payback 2pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm, 10pm, 11,40pm, 12,15am Plunkett and Macleane 11.05am, 1.10pm, 5pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm, 11.50pm The Rugrats Movie 11am, 12noon, 1pm, 2m, 3pm, 4pm, 6pm, apm Shakespeare in Love 4.45pm, 7.20pm, 9.50pm Waking Ned 3.05pm, 5.10pm, 7.10pm, 9.15pm

FINCHLEY **VARNER VILLAGE** (0181-446 9344) O East Finchley Arlington Road 9.20pm. 12midnight Blast from the Past 1pm, 3.40pm. 6.10pm, 9.50pm A Bug's Life 10.30am. 12.50pm A Civil Action 1.10pm. 3.50pm. 6.20pm. 9pm The Faculty 6.40pm. 9.10pm. 11.50pm Jack Frost 10.40am Madeline 11.20am Mighty Joe 10.30am, 1.40pm, 4.20pm Pay-back 11am, 1.30pm, 4pm, 6pm, 8.40pm, 11.40pm Plunkett and Macleane 11.30am, 2pm, 4.30pm, 6.55pm, 9.30pm, 12midnight The Prince of Egypt 10.50am The Rugrats Movie 11.10pm, 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm Shakespeare in Love 7pm, 9.50pm Urban Legend 11.20pm La Vita è Bella 3.15pm Waking Ned

GOLDERS GREEN ABC (0181-455 1724) Golders Green A Civil Action 5.45pm. 8.35pm The Rugrats Movie 1.45pm, 3.45pm

1.50pm, 4.40pm, 7.10pm, 9.40pm

HAMMERSMITH

VIRGIN (0870-907 0718) + Ravenscourt Park/Hammersmith A Bug's Life 12.15pm The Faculty 1.20pm. 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Mighty Joe 12noon, 3.10pm Payback 3.15pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Plunkett and Macleane 6.20pm, 8.45pm The Rugrats Movie 11.30am, 1.30pm, 3.40pm

HAMPSTEAD

5.15pm, 8.15pm The Rugrats Movie 1.30pm, 3.30pm Tea with Mussollni 2.45pm, 5.35pm, 8.25pm La Vita e Bella 5.45pm. 8.30pm

ABC (0870-902 0413) & Belsize Park The Red Vlotin 2.15pm,

SAFARI CINEMA (0181-426 0303) O Harrow-on-the-Hill/Harrow & Rehte Ham 1.30pm, 5pm, 8.45pm Jaanam Samiha Karo 1.30pm. 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm, 11.30pm 5pm. 8.45pm

composers and the As of the Printer Properties A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR Harry on the creatile No. 1. Key and a state the

> MIGHTY JOE (PG) Mighty Joe is a mutant gorilla, who hangs out in the jungles of Africa with his Tarzan-type

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The Faculty 12.50pm, 3pm, 5.20pm, 7.40pm, 10pm Mighty Joe 12.10pm, 2.30pm, 4.50pm Payback

5pm, 7.20pm, 9.50pm Plunkett and Macleane 12.30pm, 2.50pm,

5.10pm, 7.30pm, 10pm Waking Ned 5pm, 7.20pm, 9.40pm

UCI 6 (0990-888990) BR: Sutton

A Bug's Life 11am, 1.15pm A Civ-

Il Action 1pm, 3.30pm, 8pm, 8.30pm, 11.45pm The Faculty

4.35pm, 7.20pm, 9.45pm, 12.15am Madeline 11.15am Mighty Joe 10.45am, 1.30pm, 4.40pm Payback

7pm, 9.30pm, 12midnight Plunkett and Macleane 4.15pm, 6.40pm,

11.30am, 1.45pm, 4pm, 6.15pm Shakespeare in Love 8.45pm, 11.35pm Urban Legend 11.55pm Waking Ned 11.45am, 2.05pm, 7.10pm, 9.15pm

WARNER VILLAGE (0171-604

3110) & Finchiey Road Arlington

Road 9.35pm Blast from the Past

11am, 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 8.25pm, 9pm A Bug's Life 11.20am, 1.40pm

9pm A Bag's Life 11.20am, 1.40pm A Civil Action 1.15pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm The Faculty 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm Madeline 11.45am Mighty Joe 10.50am, 1.25pm Payback 2pm, 4.25pm, 7pm, 9.30pm Plunkett and

7pm. 9.30pm Pfunkett and Macleane 1.20pm. 3.40pm. 6.15pm, 8.40pm The Rugrats Movie I 1.30am, 1.30pm, 3.30pm. 5.30pm, 7.40pm Shakespeare In Love 4pm. 6.40pm, 9.25pm Waking Ned 12.40pm, 2.55pm, 5.15pm, 7.25pm, 9.40pm

WALTHAMSTOW ABC (0870-902 0424) & Waltham

ODEON (08705-050007) BR/O Wim-

Ned 4.35pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm

ABC (0181-989 3463) & South Woodford A Bug's Life 2pm, 4pm A Civil Action 1,55pm, 4,05pm.

6.20pm, 8.35pm Payback 8.30pm Plunkett and Macleane 6.05pm, 8.30pm The Rugrats Movie 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm

CINEMA

REPERTORY

CINE LUMIERE Queensberry Place, SW7 (0171-838 2144) Urban Clan

(NC) 6pm My Survival as an Aboriginal (NC) 7.30pm

LLGET: CURZON SOHO Shafteston

Avenue, W1 (0171-734 2255) (12noon-6pm) Norman... is That

(CA The Mail, SW1 (0171-930 3647) 8 1/2 (15) 4pm, 6,45pm Mizu No Naka No Hachigatsu (NC) 6,30pm, 8,45pm The Last Movie (NC) 9,15pm

(0171-604 5523) The Wrong Guy (NC) 7.30pm

THE LUX Hoxton Square, N1 [0171-

LLGFF: MUSEUM CINEMA National

Film Theatre, 5E1 (0171-928 3232) Entertaining Mr Sloane (NC) 7pm

LLGFF: NATIONAL FILM THEATRE

South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 3232)

Shorts Programme (NC) 6.30pm A Hot Roof (NC) 8.40pm Beefcake

(NC) 8.45pm Testing the Limits: Shorts (NC) 10.45pm

PHOENIX CINEMA High Road, NZ

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place

WC2 [0171-437 8181) The Mask of Zorro [PG) 1.30pm Pecker (18)

4.20pm Perdita Durango (18) 6.25pm Buffalo 66 (15) 9.05pm

The Rocky Horror Picture Show (15) 11.45pm

THE PULLMAN EVERYMAN Holly

Bush Vale, NW3 (0845-606 2345)

WOODFORD

LONDON

You? (NC) 9pm

SWISS COTTAGE

9pm, 11pm The Rugrats Mov

SUTTON

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-427 9009) O Harrow on the Hill American History X 9.30pm, 12mldnight Arlington Road 8.50pm. 11.45pm Blast from the Past 12,20pm, 3,10pm, 6,10pm, 9pm, 11,50pm A Bug's Life 10,40am, 1pm A Civil Action 11,10am, 1,40pm, 4,10pm, 6,40pm, 9,50pm The Faculty 12.30pm, 3pm, 5.20pm, 8.30pm, 11.30pm Jack Frost 10.50am Madeline 10.20am Mighty Joe 10.10am, 12.40pm, 3.20pm Payback 11am, 1.30pm, 4pm. 6.30pm, 9.40pm, 12.10am Plunkett and Macleane 10.30am, 12.10am The 3.50pm, 7pm, 9.35pm, 12.10am The Prince of Egypt 10am The Rugrats Movie 9.50am, 12noon, 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.50pm Shakespeare in Love 3.30pm, 6,20pm, 9.20pm Urban Legend 11.30pm Waking Ned 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm You've Got M@il 6.30pm

ODEON (08705-050007) & Holloway Road Blast from the Past 1.30pm, 4.15pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm A Bug's Life 12.20pm, 12.45pm, A Bug's Life 12.20pm, 12.43pm, 1.15pm A Civil Action 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm The Fac-ulty 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 7.10pm, 9.40pm Madeline 12.30pm Mighty Joe 12.10pm, 2.25pm, 4.45pm Payback 4.05pm, 7.15pm, 9.35pm Plunkett and Macleane 2.30pm, 5.10pm, 7.20pm, 9.50pm The Rugrats Movie 12ncon, 2pm, 4pm, 5.45pm Shakespeare In Love 7pm, 9.30pm Slaim 7.30pm, 9.45pm Waking Ned 1.15pm, 3.20pm, 5.30pm, 7.40pm, 10pm

ILFORD ODEON (08705-050007) ⊕ Gants Hill A Bug's Life 12noon The Faculty 1pm, 3.40pm, 5pm, 8.40pm Mighty Joe 12.40pm, 3.30pm Payback 8.05pm, 8.45pm Plunkett and о.оэрип о.4-эрт нчинкеет and Maxleane 2.10рт, 6.10рт, 8.30рт The Rugrats Movie 12noon, 2.10рт, 4.20рт, 6.30рт, 8.30рт Waking Ned 12.30рт, 3рт, 5.30рт, 8.55рт

KINGSTON ABC OPTIONS (0870-902 0409) BR: Kingston A Bug's Life 1.25pm The Faculty 3.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.20pm Payback 2.25pm, 8.25pm Plunkett and Macleane 6.05pm, 8.30pm The Rugrats Movie 12.35pm, 2.25pm, 4,15pm Shakespeare in Love 5.50pm

ODEON (08705-050007) & Highgate The Faculty 4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.40pm Mighty Joe 1.45pm Payback 6.45pm, 8.50pm Plunkett and Markett 3.15mm Madeane 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.55pm, 9pm La Vita è Bella 1.30pm

PREMIER (0181-235 3006) BR: Peckham Rye American History X 9,15pm, 11,45pm Beloved 10,30pm Blast from the Past 10.30pm Blast from the Past 12.15pm, 2.35pm, 4.50pm, 7pm A Bug's Life 12.40pm, 2.40pm A Civil Action 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm, 11,40pm The Faculty 4.45pm, 7.05pm, 9.25pm, 11.50pm How Stella Got her Groove Back 11.10pm Madeline 12.20pm Mighty Joe 12noon, 2.30pm Payback 4.35pm, 7.05pm, 9.05pm, 11.35pm Plunkett and Macleane 2.25pm 4.40pm 6.50pm 9pm The Rugrats Movie 12.10pm, 2.15pm, 4.20pm, 6.25pm, 8.25pm

ABC (0870-902 0407) BR: Purley ABug's Life 3pm A Civil Action 5.50pm, 8.30pm The Faculty 5.10pm, 8.10pm Mighty Joe 2.40pm Plunkett and Macleane 6.10pm, 8.35pm The Rugrats Movie 2.15pm, 4.15pm

PUTNEY ABC [0870-902 0401) BR: Putney The Faculty 2.15pm, 4.45pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm Payback 2.10pm, 7.15pm, 9.35pm Plunkett and Macleane 7.25pm, 9.30pm The Rugrats Movie 1.15pm, 3.25pm, 5.25pm Shake-

ODEON (08705-050007) BR/O Richmond The Faculty 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm Madeline 12noon Plunkett and Macleane 1.50pm. 4.10pm, 6.50pm. 9.30pm Waking Ned 1.30pm. 4pm. 7pm. 9.40pm

ODEON STUDIO (08705-050007) BR/O Richmond A Bug's Life 12.50pm, 3pm Mighty Joe 1.10pm, 3.40pm Payback 5pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm The Rugrats Movie 12.50pm, 2.40pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm Shakespeare in Love 6.10pm, 9pm Tea with Mussolini 12.50pm, 40pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm The Thin

ABC (0870-902 0419) BR: Romford The Faculty 2.10pm. 5.40pm. 8.25pm Payback 8.40pm Plunkett and Macleane 2.20pm. 5.35pm. 8.25pm The Rugrats Movie

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3.50pm, 6,15pm A Bug's Life 12.15pm A Chil Action 2.30pm.

4.45pm, 7pm, 9.20pm The Faculty 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Mighty

Joe I pm, 3.45pm Payback 6.30pm 9pm Plunkett and Macleans

1.40pm, 3.55pm, 6,15pm, 8.40pm The Rugrats Movie 12noon, 2.15pm,

8.45pm Waking Ned 7pm, 9.10pm

NEW PICTURE HOUSE (0181-555

3366) BR/& Stratford A Bug's

Life 12noon, 2pm The Faculty

3.20pm, 5.40pm, 8pm, 10,20pm Gods and Monsters 6.30pm Mighty

Joe 1pm Payback 2pm, 4,15pm,

Macleane 4pm. 6.15pm. 8.30pm. 10.45pm The Rugrats Movie 11.30am. 1.20pm, 3.10pm, 5pm,

6.50pm Siam 8.40pm, 10.55pm

ABC (0870-902 0415) BR: Streatham

Hill Blast from the Past 2.15pm, 5.45pm A Chil Action 1.45pm,

4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.40pm The Ru

grats Movie 1.55pm. 3.50pm Shake-

speare in Love 8.20pm lies with Mussolini 5.50pm, 8.30pm

ODEON [08705-050007] BR:

Stre-atham Hill American History X 7.05pm, 9.40pm

A Bug's Life 12.40pm, 2.40pm

Shakespeare in Lov

Bedrooms and Hallways (15) 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.45pm ODEON LIBERTY 2 (08705-050007) BR: Romford Blast from the Past 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.55pm A Bug's Life 12.05pm, 2pm A Chr RIVERSIDE STUDIOS Crisp Road, W6 (0171-420 0100) William Shake-speare's Romeo + Juliet (12) 6.15pm Action 12.50pm, 3.30pm, 5.55pm, 3.35pm The Faculty 1.35pm, 4pm. Shakespeare in Love (15) 8.35p 5.25pm, 8.50pm Mighty Joe 12.30pm, 3.10pm The Parent Trap 10.15am Payback 1.55pm, 4.15pm, WATERMANS ARTS CENTRE High Street, Brentford, Middlesex [018] 6.30pm, 8.45pm Plunkett and Macleane 12.15pm, 2.35pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm The Prince of 568 1176) A Bug's Life (U) 1.30pm Waking Ned (PG) 5pm, 9pm Little Volce (1S) 7pm Egypt 10.15am The Rugrats Movie 12.05pm, 2.15pm, 4,50pm, 6.45pn BRIGHTON

Shakespeare in Love 8.40pm Small Soldlers 10.15am Waking Ned 1.55pm, 4.35pm, 6.40pm, 8.40pm DUKE OF YORK'S (01 27 3-602503) Conte d'Automne (U) 2pm, 6.30pm 3.45pm Henry, Portraft of a Ser ABC (0541-555131) BR: 5idcue A Bug's Life 12.30pm The Faculty 5.45pm. 8.30pm Plunkert and al Killer (18) 11.15pm

WATERSHED (0117-925 3845) Festen (15) 3pm. 8.30pm Hideous Kinky (15) 3.10pm, 6.10pm Enter the Dragon (18) 6pm Elizabeth (15) 8.20pm Macleane 6.10pm, 8.40pm The Rugrats Movie 2.15pm, 4.15pm VERGIN (0870-907 0717) BR: Crick-lewood Blast from the Past 1,15pm,

ARTS (01223-504444) Gods and Monsters (1S) 2.45pm. 9.15pm La Vita è Bella (PG) 12.30pm, 5pm Schizopolis (15) 7.15pm

CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE (01222)

399666 Dancing at Lughnasa (PG) 6.15pm The Mighty (PG) 6.15pm Perdita Durango (18) 7.30pm Gods CHICHESTER

NEW PARK FILM CENTRE (01243 786650) Madeline (U) 1.45pm Patch Adams (12) 3.45pm You've Got M@II (PG) 6.15pm Your Friends and Neighbors (18) 9pm

FILM THEATRE [01473-215544) A Bug's Life (U) 1pm, 3.30pm The Apple (Sib) (PG) 6pm Central Station (1S) 6.15pm, 8.30pm Perdita Durango (18) 8.15pm

CINEMA CITY (01603-622047) Very Bad Things (18) 5.45pm The Acid House (18) 8.15pm, 11.15pm

PLYMOUTH ARTS CENTRE (01752-206114) Hideous Kinky (15) 8pm. 8.30pm

THEATRE WEST END

Ticket availability details are for today: times and prices for the week; running times include intervals.

— Seats at all prices) — Seats at some prices O — Returns only Matinees — [1]: Sun. [3]: Tue. [4]: Wed, [5]: Thur. [6]: Fri. [7]: Sat

) AMADEUS David Suchet stars as Salieri. Old Vic The Cut. 5E1 [017]. 494 5372/cc 494 5372) BR/O Waterioo, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 3pm, £7.50-£30, 180 mins.

O ANIMAL CRACKERS Stage version of the Marx Brothers' classic. Lyric Shaftesbury Avenue. W1 (0171-494 5045) & Picc Circ, Mon-Sat 7.45pm. [4]]7] 3pm. £9.50-£30. 150 mins. ART Tom Mannion, Danny Webb

and Gary Olsen in Yasmina Reza's hit Wyndham's Charing Cross Road. WC2 (0171-369 1736) & Leic Sq. Tue-Sat 8pm. [4] 3pm. (7)[1] 5pm. £9.50-£27.50. 90 mins. BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Musical based on Disney's version of

the fairy-tale. Dominion Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-656 1888) ♦ Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm. [4][7] 2.30pm. £18.50-£35. 150 mins. • BLOOD BROTHERS Willy Russell's long-rumning Liverpudlian mu-sical. Phuenix Charing Cross Road. WC2 (0171-369 1733) & Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 7.45pm. [5] 3pm. [7] 4pm. £11.50-£32.50. 165 mins.

• BUDDY A musical biog of Buddy Holly Strand Aldwych, WC2 (0171-ABC (0870-902 0424) & Washington Central A Bug's Life 1.25pm
The Faculty 2.20pm, 5.20pm, 8.10pm Payback 3.50pm, 8.30pm
Plumkett and Madeane 8.35pm
The Rugracs Movie 2.10pm, 4.10pm, 6pm Shakespeare in Love 6.20pm 930 8800) & Covent Garden, Today 5.30pm & 8.30pm, Sat 5pm & 8.30pm, mats [1] 4pm, £10-£30, today's mat half price, 160 mins,

) CATS Lloyd Webber's musical versioo of TS Eliot's poems. New London Parker Street. WC2 (0171-405 0072| & Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, |3][7] 3pm, £10.50-£35. ODEON (08705-050007) BR/e-Wimbledon A Bug's Life 12.25pm, 2.30pm The Faculty 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm 11.15pm Madeline 11.45am Mighty Joe 11.40am. 2pm, 4.20pm Payloack 6.35pm, 8.50pm, 11.15pm Plunkett and Macleane 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 11.15pm The Rugrats Movie 11.20am, 1.10pm, 3pm, 4.50pm, 6.40pm Shakespeare in Love 8.25pm This Year's Love 11.20pm Waking Ned 4.35pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm

O CHICAGO Maria Friedman and Peter Davisoo star in this hit Broadway musical. Adelphi Maiden Lane, WC2 (0171-344 0055) & Charing X. Mon-Sat 8pm, [4](7] 3pm, £16-£36 (incl booking fee). 130 mins.

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED) Reduced Shakespeare Company fast-forwards through 37 plays, Criterion Piccadilly Circus, WI (0171-369 1747) & Picc Circ. Wed-Sat 8pm, [5] 3pm, [7] 5pm, [1] 4pm, £10-£25, 120 mins.

O COPENHAGEN Drama from Michael Frayn about the discovery of the atom. Duchess Catherine Street. WC2 (0171-494 5075/cc 344 4444) → Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5][7] 2.30pm. £10-£30. 145 mlns.

• DEFENDING THE CAVEMAN Mark Little stars in this comedy of the sexes. Apollo Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070) & Picc Circ. Today Sat 6pm & 8.45pm. £5-£25.

OR DOLITTLE Phillip Schofield talks to the animals. London Apollo Hammersmith Queen Caroline 5treet, W6 [0171-416 6022] → Hammersmith. Tue-Sat 7.30pm. |4||7| 2,30pm, ends 28 Aug. £12.50-£32.50, 150 mlns.

THE GIN GAME Joss Ackland and Dorothy Tutin in this comedy about a game of Gin Rummy, Savoy 5trand, WC2 [0171-836 8888] BR/O Charing X. Mon-5at 7.45pm, [5][7] 3pm, ISLAMIC CENTRE Maida Vale, W9 ends 5 Jun. £9.50-£27.50.

O GOOD Charles Dance in CP Taylor's deceptively bumorous drama, Donmar Warehouse Eartham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732) ⊕ Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.30pm. [5][7] 3pm, ends 22 May. £14-£22.

D GREASE Stage version of the hit. film starring Darren Day. Cambridge Eartham Street, WC2 [0171-494 5080) ↔ Covent Garden. Mon-5at 7.30pm, [4]]7) 3pm. £10-£32.50. 150 mins.

Mildred Pierce (NC) 4pm A Perfect Kinsey "Five": Shorts Programme (NC) 6.15pm Maids of Honour: GROSS INDECENCY: THE THREE TRIALS OF OSCAR WILDE Michael Penningtoo and William Hoyland in Moses Kaufman's re-construction of the downfall of the playwright. Gielgud Shaftesbury Avenue. W1 [0171-494 5065) (0181-444 6789) Tea with Mus-solini (PG) 1pm, 3.35pm, 8.50pm La Vita è Bella (PG) 6.10pm ⊕ Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm. [4]]7]

2.30pm, £7.50-£29.50. AN INSPECTOR CALLS Stephen Daldry's acclaimed production of Priestley's thriller. Garrick Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085] & Leic 5q. Mon-Fri 7.45pm. Sat 8.15pm. [4] 2.30pm. [7] 5pm. 513.539 50 110 mins

MACBETH Rufus Sewell and Sally Dexter portray thwarted ambition. Queen's Shaftesbury Avenue. W1 (0171-494 5040/cc 344 4444) ⊕ Pkc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [7] 2.30pm, ends 5 Jun. £10.50-£28.50. 140 mins.

) MAMMA MIA! New musical about a mother's reflections oo ber daughter's impending wedding day, packed with Abba hits. Prince (0171-447 5400) @ Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 7.30pm. [5[]7] 3pm. £15-£35.

THE MEMORY OF WATER Alison Steadman and Julia Sawalha star in this touching comedy about sisters. Vaudeville Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987) BR/⊕ Charing X. Mon-5at 8pm. [5([7] 3pm. 98-527.50. 120 mms.

O LES MISERABLES Hit musical based on Victor Hugo's novel. Palace Shaftesbury Avenue. W1 (0171-434 09091 @ Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (5)(7) 2.30pm. £7-£35. 195 mins.

MISS SAIGON Musical which sets the Madam Butterfly tragedy to Vietnam. Theatre Royal, Drury Lane Catherine Street. WC2 |0171-494 5060) & Covent Garden. Mon-5at 7.45pm, [4]]7] 3pm. £8.50-£35. 165 mins.

Now Booking

THE FLEADH, Finsbury Park's annual craic-

fest, celebrates 10 years with an impressive

line-up including The Pretenders, Shane

Finsbury Park, London N4, 10 Jul; Ticket

MacGowan and Van Morrison (below).

hotline: 0541 500 044 or 0171-344 0044

N THE MOUSETRAP Agatha Christie's whodunnit, 5t Martin's West 5treet, WC2 (0171-836 1443) ⊕ Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 8pm, [3] 2.45pm. [7] 5pm. £10-£24.50. 135 mins.

) OKLAHOMA! Maureen Lipman stars in the National's acclaimed production. Lyceum Wellington Street. WC2 (0870-606 3446) & Charing X. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4]]7] 2.30pm, ends 26 Jun. £10-£35. 180 mins.

O THE PHANTOM OF THE **OPERA** Andrew Llovd Webber's Gothic musical Her Majesty's Haymarket. SW1 [0171-494 5400) @ Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7 45pm. [4]|7[

• THE PRISONER OF SECOND AVENUE Richard Dreyfuss and Marsha Mason in Neil Simon's midlife crisis comedy. Theatre Royal, Haymarket Haymarket. SW1 [0171-930 8800) ← Picc Circ. Mon-5at 7.45pm. [4][7] 3pm. £10-£32.50. RENT Musical inspired by La

Bohème and set in modern day New York. Shaftesbury Shaftesbury Avenue. WC2 (07000-211221) ⊕ Holborn. Mon-Sat 7,30pm. [4][7] 3pm. £12.50-£32.50. 160 m • ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE COTTESLOE: The Riot Nick Darke's drama from Kneehigh Theatre.

in rep. tonight 7.30pm, ends 28 Apr. • LYTTELTON: The Forest Alan Ayckbourn's version of Ostrovsky's black social satire stars Francesde la Tour. In rep. tonight 7.30pm. ends 1 May.

● LYTTELTON: NT2000: Long

Day's Journey Into Night O'Neili's autobiographical portrayal of the turbulent Tyrone family. Tonight 6pm. DOLIVIER: Candide Voltaire's work of comic genius featuring an all star cast and Bernstein's heady score. In rep, tonight 7,15pm, ends 22 May. Cottesloe: £12-£18. Olivier & Lyttelton: £8-£27. NT2000: £4. concs £3. South Bank, 5E1 (0171-452 3000) BR/⊕ Waterloo.

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY • THE BARBICAN: The Winter's Tale Anthooy Sher stars in this tale of obsessive jealousy. In rep. tonight 7.15pm, ends 6 May.

 THE PIT: Goodnight Children Everywhere A teenage evacuee re-turns home after the death of his parents in Richard Nelson's moving drama. In rep. tonight 7.15pm, ends 27 Apr. 140 mins. Barbican Theatre: £5-£26. The Pit: £11-£18.50. Barbican Centre, £C2 (0171-638 8891) BR/& Barbican,

▶ SACRED HEART Mick Mahoney play in which friends struggle to cope with their pasts and daunting fu-tures. Royal Court Upstairs (at The Ambassadors) West Street, WC2 (0171-565 5000) & Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 7pm, ends 24 Apr. £10, concs £5.

O SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER Hit 1970s musical featuring songs by the Bee Gees, London Palladium Argyll Street. W1 (0171-494 5020) ← Öxford Circus. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, £10-£32.50, 135 mins.

• SHOCKHEADED PETER Junk opera featuring the Tiger Lillies. Lyrk Harnmersmith King Street, W6 (0181-741 2311) & Hammersmith. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [7] 2.30pm, ends

) SLAVA'S SNOWSHOW Slava Polounine returns to London with his mesmeric show. Piccadiay Denman Street, W1 [0171-369 1734] + Picc Circ. Men-Sat 7.30pm, [5][7) 2.30pm, ends 10 Apr. £10-£27.50. STARLIGHT EXPRESS Lloyd

Webber's hi-tech roller-musical Apollo Victoria Wilton Road, 5W1 (0171-416 6070) BR/O Victoria. Mon-5at 7.45pm, (3)[7(3pm. £12.50-£30, 150 mi

 SUDDENLY LAST SUMMER Tennessee Williams' chilling tale of motherly love, starring 5heila Gish. Cornedy Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731) & Picc Circ/Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 8pm, [5][7) 4pm. £7.50-£27.50.

THE WEIR Conor McPherson's drama examining ideas of ghosts and angels. Royal Court Downstairs (at the Duke OF York's) St Martin's Lane. WC2 (0171-565 5000) ↔ Leic Sq/Charing X, Mon-Sat 7.30pm [4][7] 3.30pm. £5-£25. 90 mins.

WEST SIDE STORY Bernstein's Coventry Street. W1 (0171-839 [5[[7] 3pm. £18.50-£35. 160 mlns.

O WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND Lloyd Webber's musical based on the film of the same name. Aldwych Aldwych, WCZ (0171-416 6000) & Holm. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5](7(3pm.

THE WOMAN IN BLACK Susan Hill's chilling ghost story. Fortune Russell Street. WC2 (0171-836 8pm, [3] 3pm, [7] 4pm, £8.50-£23.50, 110 mins.

THEATRE BEYOND THE WEST END

of Arc Monica Lissak's fresh look at this renowned saint. Tue-5un 1pm, ends 11 Apr. £5, concs £4. Gob Jason Orange stars in this comic attack on the bastions of art and culture. Tue-Sun 8pm, mass 5 5un 3.30pm, ends 18 Apr. E12-£14. concs £9 Upper Street, N1 (0171-226 1916) & Angel.

RICHMOND THEATRE The House of Bernarda Alba Lorca's study of conflict between a grieving mother and her daughters, 9 & 10 Apr. 7,45pm. £7-£18. The Green. Richmond, Surrev (0181-940 0088) & Richmond.

BOX OFFICE

*THE INFORMATION ON Mamma Mia!

What's the Name of the Game?

Unless you're William Hague, you'll know it's the musical Björn Ulvaeus has been endlessly promoting for the past three months - a smorgasbord of the greatest hits of Abba (below), seasoned with the story of a young girl's quest to establish the true identity of her father on the eve of her wedding in Greece. The show's opening neatly coincides with



the 25th anniversary of that heady night back in 1974 when Abba won the Eurovision Song Contest in Brighton.

Knowing Me, Knowing Who? In her first musical, Phyllida Lloyd directs Lisa Stokke - making her West End debut as bride-to-be Sophie alongside Louise Plowright, Hilton McRae and Siobhan McCarthy. Design is by Mark Thompson.

So We Say...

"Ridiculously enjoyable... Phyllida Lloyd's handsome production provides a terrific mood of airborne silliness" Paul Taylor, The Independent. "Catherine Johnson's book for Mamma Mial is rather like a jigsaw puzzle whose pieces do not fit together ... audiences are left to fall back upon the songs, greeting them



like long-lost friends with whom they craved to sing along" Nicholas de Joneh. Evening Standard. "Catchy, enjoyable, melodic, but overall a bit bland" Lyn Gardner. The Guardian

Take A Chance... At the Prince Edward Theatre,

London W1 (0171-447.5400) SIOBHAN DOLAN

THEATRE COUNTRYWIDE

BRIGHTON THEATRE ROYAL Smokey Joe's Cafe The rock in roll hit-makers celebrated in a musical revue. 9 Apr, 5,30pm & 8.20pm. 10 Apr, 4pm & 7.45pm, £11-£21. concs available Bond Street (01273-328488)

HIPPODROME THEATRE Phantom of the Opera Tour of Lloyd Web-ber's hit musical, Mon-Sat 7,30pm. mats Wed & Sat 2.30pm. ends 22 May £10-£30, concs available St Augustines Parade (0117-929 9444)

ST DAVID'S HALL Pirates of Penzance Paul Nicholas stars in this swast-buckling version of Gilbert and Sullivan. 9 & 10 Apr. 7.30pm. £9-£25. The Hayes (01222-878444)

COLCHESTER MERCURY THEATRE Uncle Vanya MERCURY INFAIRE Uncle Vanya Chekhov's drama about a distin-grating Russian family, Mon-Sat 7,30pm, ends 24 Apr. £6.50-£15.50. Balkerne Gate (01206-573948)

GUILDFORD MILL STUDIO, YVONNE ARNAUD THEATRE Mr Dickens and Mr hakespeare Edward Petherbridge delves into the lives of the literary g ants. 9 & 10 Apr, 8pm, £9. Millbrook [01483-440000)

HIGH WYCOMBE VYCOMBE SWAN Earth and Sky Thriller about a librarian who suspect her boyfriend of murder, starring Sar Janus, Tue-Sat 8pm, mats Wed & Sat 2.30pm, ends 10 Apr. £6.50-£16. 5t Mary's Street (01494-512000)

HORNCHURCH **OUEEN'S THEATRE Misery Adap**tation of Stephen King's horror story. Mon-Sat 8pm, ends 10 Apr. E8.50-E12.50, concs £5.50-£7.50. Billet Lane [01708-443333)

HAYMARKET THEATRE The White tra gedy. Tonight 7.30pm. ends 30 Apr. £6.50 £14.50. Belgrave Gate (0116-253 9797)

MALVERN MALVERN FESTIVAL THEATRE Things We Do for Love Belinda Lang in Alan Ayckbourn's comedy. Mon-Sat Born, mats Wed & Sat 2.30pm, £14 £18. Grange Road [01684-892277]

NORWICH THEATRE ROYAL Martin Guerre Boubil and Schonberg's musical love story. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, ends 10 Apr. £3.50-£24. Theatre 5treet (01603-630000)

THEATRE ROYAL Boogle Nights Shane Richie in the 1970s musical. 9 & 10 Apr. 6pm & 9pm. £8-£21. loyal Parade South [01752-267222)

SALISBURY PLAYHOUSE Colombi Anouith's stylish evocation of the Parisian demi-monde. Tonight 8pm. ends 17 Apr. £8-£15. Malthous Lane [01722-320333]

THE OTHER PLACE Orognol Adaptation of Aphra Behn's Restoration novel. Tonight 7.30pm, ends 6 Oct. £10-£20. Southern Lane (01789-295623]

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE Othello Michael Attenborough di-rects Ray Fearon and Zoe Waites Tonight 7.30pm, ends 7 Oct. £5-£39 Naterside (01789-295623)

SWAN THEATRE Tales from Ovid Tim Supple directs the late Ted Hughes' version of Ovid's epic poem. Tonight 7.30pm, ends 7 Oct. £5-£36, Waterside (01789-295623)

TAUNTON THE BREWHOUSE ARTS CENTRE Arry Johnson Drama about the female aviator. Tonight 7.45pm, £10, Coal Orchard (01823-283244)

WATFORD PALACE THEATRE The Late Middle Classes Harold Pinter directs this study of family conflict. Tonight & Sat 8pm. ends 10 Apr. £4-£15.75. Clarendon Road (01923-225671)

FINAL CALL for Shockheaded Peter (below).

the gory junk opera. The deliciously sinister

Struwwelpeter stories meet the macabre

Tiger Lillies in an evening of music theatre.

Lyric Hammersmith, King St, London W6

(0181-741 2311) ends tomorrow

EXHIBITIONS

THE ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SO-CIETY For Most of It I Have No Words: Simon Norfolk Photographs from sites of 20th-century genocide. Mon-Sun 9.30am-5.30pm, ends 6 Jun. £2.50, concs £1,75. The Octagon Gal-leries, Milsom Street (01 225-462841)

THEATR BRYCHEINIOG The Poems THEATR BRYCHEINIOG The Poems of Jules Laforgue: Patrick Caulfield Prints by the Pop artist, based on the work of the French poet. Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, ends 18 Apr, free. Canal Wharf (01874-611622)

FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM Picasso and Matisse Works from the muse-um's collection, Ends 11 Apr. Recent Acquisitions of Contemporary American Prints Etchings of the East Coast, lithographs, woodcuts and screenprints, Ends 2 May. Rembrandt and the Passion The museum's outstanding collection of prints, Tue-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2.15pm-5pm, ends 20 Jun, free. Trumpington Street (01223-332900)

EKETER ROYAL ALBERT MEMORIAL MU-SEUM The Art of Hilda Carline: Mrs tanley Spencer Exhibition dedicated to the pai times of Spencer's first wife. Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, ends 3 May, free. Queen Street (01392-265858)

LONDON DESIGN MUSEUM Mini: 40 Years of a Design Icon Mini's designed by celebrities mark the 40th anniversary of the vehicle, Ends 9 May. £5,25, concs £4, family £12, Modern Britain 1927-1939 Paul Nash and Barbara Hepworth. Mon-Sun 11.30am-6pm, ends 18 Jul. E5.25, concs £4, Shad Thames, SE1

(0171-378 6055) → Tower Hill. HAYWARD GALLERY Patrick Caulfield Colourful paintings by the leading British artist. Mon. Thur-Sun 10am-6pm. Tue & Wed 10am-Rpm. ends 11 Apr. £6, concs £4, family

960 4242) BR/O Waterloo. NATIONAL GALLERY Portraits by Ingres Major exhibition of paintings and drawings by the 19th-century French artist. Mon. Tue. Thur-Sun 10am-6pm, Wed 10am-10pm, ends 25 Apr. £6. concs £4, Wed £4 7pm-10pm Orazio Gentileschi at the Court of Charles t Rare exhibition exploring the work of the 17th-century Italian artist, Mon, Tue, Thur-Sun 10am-6pm, Wed 10am-9pm, ends 23 May, free. Rogier Van Der Weyden in the Na-tional Gallery Paintings by the 15th-century Dutch artist. Mon, Tue. Thur-Sun 10am-6pm, Wed 10am-9pm, ends 4 Jul, free. Trafalgar Square, WC2 [0171-747 2885] O Charing Cross.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS Monet in the 20th Century Paintings made in the 26 years after 1900. Mon-Thur 9am-6pm, Fri 9am-11pm, Sat 8am-11pm, 5un 8am-6pm, ends 18 Apr. E9. concs £6. child (12-18) E3. child (8-11) £1.50. Burlington House, Piccadilly, W1 (0171-300 8000) & Green Park,

Thomas Demand's Tunnel Looped film of travel in a tunnel explores uroan life. Ends 25 Apr, free. Works on Paper and Paintings: Francis Bacon Previously unknown paintings and drawings. Ends 2 May, free. Pharmacy: Damlen Hirst Installa-tioo exploring modern medicine.

Ends 2 May, free. Scrapheap Services: Michael Landy Mannequins, Ends 2 May, free. Jackson Pollock Major painting ret-rospective of Abstract Expressionist works, Ends 6 Jun. £7.50, concs £5 family £19 (Firstcall 0870-842 2233 + £1.60 bkg fee). Z233 + Z1.00 Mg (es).
Turner's Last Papers 1820-51 Examining the paper Turner used for his later work. Ends 13 Jun. free.
When Robots Rule — The One
Minute Airplane Factory: Curls Burden Installation of flying planes. Ends 27 Jun, free.

Dangerous Liasons: Barbara Hep-worth and Ben Nicholson Exam-ining the cross fertilisation of ideas reen the couple. Ends 11 Jul, free. Dangerous Llasons: Rodin and sewteen the artists. Mon-Sun 10am 5.50pm, ends 11 Jul, free. Milibani SW1 (0171-887 8000) & Pimilco.

TATE GALLERY English Roots: Er-lc Cameron Thousands of layers of paint surrounding organic objects. £nds I 1 Apr

Displays 1998-9: Partnerships and Practice Paintings and ceram-ies from the second half of the cen-tury and a selection of contemporary work. Ends 11 Apr. Quoit Montserrat: Veronica Ryan Marble sculpture linking St Ives with Montserrat. Ends 11 Apr.

Images of Portmeor Beach: Lubaina Himid Work in progress by the resident artist. Mon-Sat 11am-7pm, Sun 11am-5pm, ends 18 Apr 3.50, concs £2. Porthmeor Beach

GLYNN VIVIAN ART GALLERY Eighteenth Century Derby Porcelain Touring fine ceramics. Ends 25 Apr. Syzygy: Alan Rogers and Philip Mead Two leading artists contrast their differing visions. Tue-Sun I Cam-5pm, ends 9 May, free. Alexandra Road (01792-651738)

CLASSICAL

LONDON ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL London Philharmonic/Botstein Khacha-turian's Violin Concerto and Dvorak's New World Symphony. Tonight 7.30pm. £5-£16. South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242) BR/O Waterloo.

WIGMORE HALL Joanna MacGre-

SALISBURY CITY HALL Bournemouth Sinfoni-etta/Studt Mozart's 29th Symphony and Haydn's 83rd. Tonight 7.30pm. £5-£13. Malthouse Lane (01722-327676)

DANCE

BRISTOL ARNOLFINE Shobana Jeyasingh Pance Company Groundhreaking choreography fusing traditional Indian dance with contemporary styles. 9 & 10 Apr, 8pm. £7, Narrow Quay [0117-929 9191)

JACKSON'S LANE COMMUNITY CENTRE Emily Burns Triple-bill by the young choreographer Tonight 8pm. £8, concs £6. Archway Road, N6 [0181-341 4421] & Highgate,

PURCELL ROOM Mavin Khon: Warner - Colours of Bharatanatyam Classical dance from southern India. 9 & 10 Apr. 8pm. £10. concs £8. South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242) BR/& Waterloo.

POOLE ARTS CENTRE English National Ballet: Tour de Force Ex-tracts from five distinctive ballets. 9 & 10 Apr. 7.45pm. £12-£16.50. Kingland Road [01202-685222]

THE HEXAGON St Petersburg Bal-Tatchkin's company perform the time-less love story alongside Kirov soloists. 9 & 10 Apr, 7.30pm. £13.50-£22.50, Queens Walk (0118-960 6060)

LITERATURE

IN CROFTERS Surreal tales from storyteller James Campbell King's Lynn Arts Centre Tonight 8pm. King Street (01553-764864) £6.50.

ALISON WEIR - ELIZABETH THE QUEEN Weir discusses her new biography of Queen Elizabeth I. British Library Bookshop Today 1 pm-2 pm, free, Euston Road, NW1 (0171-412 7735) & Euston.

AN EVENING WITH ANDREA LEVY The London-born author reads from bor new novel, Fruit of the Lemon Tree. Centerprise Bookshop Tonight 7pm. free. Kingsland High Street, E8 (0171-254 9632) BR: Hackney Downs.

COMEDY

BRISTOL MADHOUSE COMEDY CLUB AT Wool, Phil Nichol and MC Key F. Tonight 8.30pm. £5. concs £4, North Street (0117-922 3683)

THE COMEDY STORE With Steve Gribbin, Mandy Knight, Otiz Cannel-loni, Dave Spikey and Ian Stone, Tonight Born & 12midnight, £12. cores £7 late only. Overdon 5treet, 5W1 (0171-344 0234) & Piccadilly Circus. LEE HURST'S BACKYARD COMEDY CLUB Lee Hurst hosts John Fothergill, Neville Rayen and Paul

£7. Cambridge Heath Road, £2 [0171-739 3122] & Bethnal Green. OXFORD JONGLEURS OXFORD With Pierre Hollins, Lee Mack, Gina Yashere and Michael Smiley. Tonight 7.45pm. £10. Hythe Bridge Street (0845-608 1818)

Thome. Tonight 8.30pm. £10, co £7. Cambridge Heath Road

JONGLEURS WATFORD With Phil Davey, Mark Maier, Roger D and Jim Tavare. Tonight 7.45pm. £12. The Parade (0845-608 1818)

CLUBS

BRIGHTON SUSST AT THE HONEY CLUB Ladie old and new, Tonight 10pm-2am, free. King's Road Arches (01273-202807)

BRISTOL TUESDAYS AT CAFE BLUE Live Latin music with DJ support. Tonight 9pm-1am, free. The Old Fire Station, 5liver 5treet (0117-940 5626)

FORGERY AT THE DOG STAR Patrick Forge and Richard Welch play Latin drum obass. Tonight 9pm-2.30am. Coldharbour Lane, SW9 (0171-733 7515) BR/O Brixton, free.

EVENTS

BASINGSTOKE THE MERMAID'S TALE: KAZZUM THE MERIMAD'S TALE: RAZZUM-THEATRE COMPANY Enchanting tale for ages 3-6, adopted from Hans Christian Andersen's classic, Hay-market Theatre Today 2 pm. £3.50. Wote 5treet (01256-465566)

LONDON LEATHER WORKING AND SHOE MAKING DEMONSTRATIONS Watch the cobbler at work and have a go at punching patterns onto leather. Museum of London 9 &

SUDRURY THE SECRET GARDEN Stage: adaptation of Frances Hodgson Burnett's classic children's novel. Quay Theatre Today 11am & 2pm. . £6.50, child £5.50. Quay Lane (01787-374745)

MUSIC

BRIGHTON MICHAEL BALL The Eurovision con-tender and star of the West End musicals. Brighton Centre Kings Road (0870-900 9100) Tonight 8pm, £21.

RUNRIG The Celtic rock legends return, Colston Hall Colston Street (0117-922 3686) Tonight 8pm. £16.50.

CARDIFF PITCHSHIFTER, JANUS STARK, SOUNDISCIPLES The UK noiseniks tour their acclaimed current album, conceptions in the control of the co

CHIGWELL ROW FISH One off gig for the ex-Marillion frontman. The Maypole Lambourne Road [0181-500 2050) Tonight

CROYDON IAN HUNTER, DIESEL PARK WEST Rare UK tour by the former Mott The Park Lane (0181-688 9291) BR: Fast

Croydon, Tonight 8pm. £10-£12. THEE HEADCOATS, THEE HEAD-COATEES Billy Childish and his punk-rock and trash blues trio, plus guest female vocals from the Headco Boston Arms Junction Road, N19

(0171-272 3411) & Tufneti Park.

night 9pm. £4. FAUST, TO ROCOCO ROT, CON-SOLE, KREIDLER The anarchic Krantrock veterans joined by their modern disciples. Oueen Elizabeth Hall South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960 4242) BR/O Waterloo, Tonight 7.45pm. £12, concs £10.

HEADS Londoo's veteran punk-funkster. Shepherd's Bush Empire Shepherd's Bush Green, W12 (0171-THE DAMNED Dave Vanian and the

nischievous horror-punk veterans.

Woughton Centre Chaffron Way

(01908-660392) Tonight 8pm. £12.

IAN DURY AND THE BLOCK-

MUSIC . JAZZ, WORLD, FOLK

BARNSTAPIF MADDY PRIOR AND FRIENDS The x-Steeleye Span singer performs pidies and new songs. Oueen's Theatre Boutport Street (01271-324242) Tonight 7.45pm. £11-£14.

BRIGHTON SULZMANN, HYMAN AND CLARVIS The high-profile sax, piano and per-cussion trio. The Lift Queens Road (O1273-730515) Tonight 8pm. £6.

cent Jazzpar award-winners, Barbi-can Hall Barbican Centre, EC2 (0171-638 8891) & Moorgate. Tonight 7.30pm. £8.50-£17.50. KYLE EASTWOOD QUENTET The goahead funk and hard boo bassist, Piz-

JIM HALL, MARTIAL SOLAL The re-

za Express Jazz Club Dean Street, W1 (0171-439 8722) & Tottenham Court Road, Tonight 9pm, £15. ANNIE ROSS The Broadway star, here in cabaret. Pizza on the Park Knightsbridge. SW1 (0171-235 5273) & Hyde Park Corner, Tonight

9.15pm & 11.15pm, £20, £18 in adv. ECHOES OF ELLINGTON JAZZ ORCHESTRA Pete Long's 22-strong tribute to the good Duke. Romie Scott's Frith Street, W1 (0171-439 0747) & Leicester Square, Tonight 9pm & 11.30pm, £15, mems £4.

M'TREBI Interpreters of Georgian folk song Union Chapel Compton Avenue. N1 [0171-226 1686] & Highbury & slington. Tonight 8pm, £9, concs £7, STEYNING

CAMPBELL BURNAP BAND The re-vivalist trombonist and pals. Steyn-Ing Centre Fletcher's Croft (01903-812258) Tonight 8.30pm. £4.

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tial Selection. 9.00 Judge Jules.

11.00 Westwood - Radio 1 Ran

4.00 - 7.00 Emma B.

RADIO 2

RADIO 3

6.00 On Air.

(90.2-92.4MHz FM)

9.00 Masterworks

Week: Britten. (R)

10.30 Artist of the Week

12.00 Proms Composer of the

100 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Con-

and Malcolm Martineau (piano) at

Leuchte; Keine von der Erde scho-

Williams: Songs of Travel. Ravel: Don

2.00 The BBC Orchestras. Conduc-

tor Yan Pascal Tortelier, Julian Lloyd

Webber (cello). Bridge: Suite The

Sea', Elgar: Cello Concerto in E mi-

nor. Rachmaninov: Symphony No 2

4.00 Music Restored. Lucie Skeap-

century French chamber music from

ing introduces a selection of 18th-

Leclair's large-scale suite 'Premiere

recorded by the Hanover-based en-

recreation de musique, specially

7.45 Performance on 3. Live from

the Uister Hall, Belfast, Uister Orches-

tra/John Carewe. Britten: The Young

Person's Guide to the Orchestra. Hol-

6.00 Ckubhouse Detectives (1996) (23354).

8.00 Warriors of Virtue (1997) (83489). 10.00 Family Plan (1997) (21511). 12.00

Klss Me Goodbye (1982) (66712). 2.00

Clubhouse Detectives (1996) (36422), 4.00 Warriors of Virtue (1997) (4538), 8.00 Fam-

ly Plan (1997) (56266). 8.00 Indepen-

dence Day (1996) (87678538), 10.20 Chosts from the Past (1996) (22368847).

(248316), 2.15 Two Days in the Valley (1996) (291855), 4.00 - 9.00 The Last

7.00 The Buttercream Gang (1992)

(99538), 9.00 Cab to Canada (1998) (65083). 11.00 The End of the Golden

(8305): 1200 The Butter-weather (1991) (32977): 1.00 The Butter-cream Gang (1992) (76199): 3.00 Cab to Canada (1998) (64625): 5.00 The End of the Golden Weather (1991) (81460): 7.00 p:review (7489): 7.30 How to Gat Ahead in

Film (4688). 9.00 UK Top Ten (3809). 8.30

Joe's Apartment (1996) (25793). 10.00 The

Tie That Binds (1995) (534354). 11.45

Scream (1997) (666712). See Pick of the

Day, 1.35 The Cable Guy (1996) (991942)

3.10 Horne Invasion (1997) (4411316), 4.40 - 7.00 Inside Out (1975) (75318316).

4.00 Our Relations (1936) (7456441). 9.00

0.00 A Guide for the Married Man (1967)

(2773793). 11.35 From the Terrace (1960)

(7305774), 3.50 Destination Gobi (1953)

6.00 Short Films (8596606). 9.00 Tin

Men (1987) (8591151). 10.00 LA Takedown (1989) (8644915). 11.45 Thieves Like Us

(1973) (7204373). 1.45 Even Cowgirls Get the Blues (1994) (4911590). 3.20 - 6.00

The Ballad of Little Jo (1993) (63153519).

4.00 Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures

(1960267). 4.30 The Diceman (1959151). 5.00 Best of British (6041538). 9.00

Wildlife SOS (1970644), 6.30 Untamed Amazonia (5109199), 7.30 Flightline (1950880), 9.00 Deadly Reptiles (9958793), 9.00 Animal Weapons

84996). **12.00** Sky Truckers (6143942).

1.00 Flightline (3806229). 1.30 The Dice-

(8978557). 10.00 Animal Weapons

(8971644), #LOO Animal Wearrons

Man (9988381). 2.00 Close.

Tarzan's New York Adventure (1942) 62). 8.00 Breezy (1973) (9556557).

(14771625). 2.05 Compulsion (1959)

(47008942). 5.20 Close.

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

FILMFOUR

Supper (1996) (81958).

SKY MOVIEMAX

SKY CINEMA

loway: Scenes from Schumann.

the time of Louis XV, including

semble Musica Alta Ripa.

5.00 in Tune.

last year's Bath Festival. Mendelssohn: Schlafloser Augen

nen; Venetianisches Gondelleid;

Nachtlied; Hexentied, Vaughan

Quichotte a dulcinee.

cert. Christopher Maltman (baritone)

11.00 Sound Stories.

(88-90.2MHz FM)

Show. 2.00 Fabio and Grooverider.

6.00 Sarah Kennedy, 7.30 Wake

12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Ed Stew-

art 5.05 Michael Aspel 7.00 The

Michael Feinstein Songbook - Turns

Single and Single. 9.30 Listen to the

Hammerstein Story. See Pick of the Day. 10.30 Sheridan Morley. 12.00

Lynn Parsons. 4.00 - 6.00 Jackie

Another Page. 7.30 Friday Night Is

Music Night. 9.15 John le Carre's

Band. 10.00 The Rodgers and

Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce.

Newsbeat 6.00 Pete Tong's Essen-

RADIO 1 (97.6-99.8MHz FM \ 6.30 Zoe Ball 9.00 Kevin Greening. 12.00 Jo Whiley. 2.00 Mark Rad-

lends with whom they dong" Nicholas de Jongh rd. Culcin enjoyable erall a hit bland Lyn

nce... dward Theatre. 17144754001SIOBHAN DOLAN

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EVENTS

ASINGSTORE
HE MERANALD'S TALE: KAZUM
HEATRE COMPANY Enchange
Le for ages 3-6, adapted from Nanhrustiar. Andersen's classic NaJarket Theatre Today Jpm 53 90
Jole Street (01256-465566)

AKING DEMONSTRATIONS
alon the cobuler at work and him NOON 80 21 punching patterns on ather, Museum of London 9: 2 Apr. 13m-1pm & 2pm-4pm & mas 5.5 Lundon Wall E(2 [01]). © 2659) ⊕ Saroican

UDBURY HE SECRET GARDEN Stage urner's classe children's now uny Theatre total, 11am & Jan 6.50, character total, 11am & Jan 6.50, characte

MUSIC

RIGHTON UCHAEL SALL The Eurovaineer widow and Star of the West End me cast. Brighter Centre rings Res (ECO: ACC at 10 Tonight Spn. 21

UNPIG The Corte rock legends Murr. Coister Half Cliston Street

ITCHSHIFTER. JANUS STARK, OUND!SCIPLES The UK noisenes and the court for the court of them. and if University Poly Place

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ROYDON AN HUNTER DIESEL PARKWEST Associate The Associate Theatre 1.5400m | Tomagen Burn 610-612

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THEB! The Charles of the Ch

FRIDAY RADIO

PICK OF THE DAY

SUE LAWLEY talks to double director, J Edgar Hoover, with Grand National winner Richard an intense duologue between Dunwoody on Desert Island Discs (9am R4). On the eve of this year's jamboree at Aintree. it seems appropriate to ask if the horse he's riding, Call it a Day,

is trying to tell him something. The Afternoon Play (2.15pm R4) continues Mike Walker's impressive, four-part dramatic dissection of the feared FB1

8.30 Anglophiles. Foreign-born

artists and thinkers choose their

ments in the postwar arts. With

8.50 Concert, part 2. Vaughan

Williams: Symphony No B.

favourite examples of British achieve-

Philip Dodd. 1: Mario Vargas Llosa.

9.35 Postscript. Five explorations by

lan Christie of how cinema has con-

tinued the literary and visual tradition of apocalypse. 5: The Last of Eng-

land'. Apocalypticism flourished

within English Nonconformism and

inspired many of the Romantics be-

fore re-emerging as a powerful secu-

lar theme for English modernists. It

has taken equally diverse forms in

British cinema, ranging from Wells's

Things to Come to the exploitation

distinctive contemporary figures as

Harvey's church opera - a searingly

intense dramatisation of tha events

of Holy Week and Easter, in which

plays are forged into a music drama

in which both performers and audi-

MacKenzie-Wicks, tenor (Pilate), BBC

ence play their part. Stuart Macin-

Singers, Sinfonia 21/Martin Neary.

12.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

9.00 NEWS: Desert Island Discs.

9.45 Serial: Just William - the 80th

(11.45pm Sky Moviemax), a

knowing horror flick. In this self-

mocking script from Kevin

Williamson, Neve Campbell (right)

plays Sidney Prescott, a teenager

heing pursued by a masked

serial killer Skeet Ulrich, Drew

Barrymore, David Arquette and

7.00 Count Duckula (40606), 7.30 Grim-

my (87793). 8.00 Earthworn Jim (72712).

8.30 Godzila (71083). 9.00 Pokemon

10.00 Shadow Raiders (60538). 10.30

Legend of the Hidden City (23460), 12.00

Tarzan: the Epic Adventure (29118), 1.00 Mad about You (90147), 1.30 Jeopardy

(71034) 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (61267). 3.00 Jenny Jones (99408). 4.00 Poke-mon (8847). 4.30 Shadow Raiders (7731). 5.00 Star Trefc Voyager (1064). 6.00 America's Dumbest Criminals (5896). 6.30

Friends (6248), 7.00 The Simosons (2793)

7.30 The Simpsons (8460), 0.00 The

Simpsons (1441). 8.30 The Simpsons (7248). 9.00 The World's Scarlest Police

(60809). 12.30 Law and Order (54316).

7.00 Sky Sports Centre (4500257). 7.15

(810):91, 333 Toure on Sky Sports (704/7809): 9.00 Racing News (57002). 9.30 Aerobics - Oz Style (88806), 10.00 Boxing - Big Fight Countdown (68096). 10.30 Futbol Mundial (53286), 11.00 Foot-

ball League Review (45731). 12.00 Aero-bics - Oz Style (44538). 12.30 Boxing -

Big Fight Countdown (62422). 1.00 Span-ish Football (16731). 3.00 The Rugby Cub

(43248). 4.00 Trans World Sport (55083).

World Wrestling Federation Superstars (810199), 8.45 You're on Sky Sports

1.30 - 7.00 Long Play (4621381).

SKY SPORTS 1

Stings (4444). 10.00 Cops (54826). 11.00 Friends (4712). 11.30 Star Trek: Voyager

Xena: Warrior Princess (68373), 11.30

(62335). 9.30 The Simpsons (21557).

tyre, baritone (Jesus), Andrew

11.30 Jazz Century.

(92.4-94.6MHz FM)

See Pick of the Day.

RADIO 4

6.00 Today

Anniversary.

the words of medieval monastic

10.00 Hear and Now. Jonathan

Gilliam Jarman and Keiller

genres of the 50s and 60s and such

Hoover and Robert F Kennedy.

Mary Rodgers, daughter of Richard, belps tell The Rodgers and Hammerstein Story (10pm R2). She marshals an impressive herd of celebrities to talk about the ground-breaking instant classic, Oklohomo! Trevor Nunn (right) chips in. DOMINIC CAVENDISH



10.00 NEWS; Woman's Hour. TLOO NEWS; Living Doll 11.30 Married 12.00 NEWS; You and Yours. 12.57 Weather. 1.00 Tha World at One.

1.30 Feedback 2.00 NEWS; The Archers. 2.15 Afternoon Play: J Edgar Hoover - They Call Him Bobby. Sea Pick of the Day. 3.00 NEWS; Making History. 3.30 What's Yours Is Mine. (R) 3.45 This Sceptred Isle.

4.00 NEWS; Bookclub. 4.30 The Message. 5.00 PM 5.57 Weather. 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.30 The News Quiz. 7.00 NEWS; The Archers. 745 Front Row. Mark Lawson with

arts reviews and interviews. 7.45 Diary of a Provincial Lady. By E M Delafield, dramatised by Jane Rogers. The everyday 30s journal of how to run a house, a husband, a cook, a nanny, two children, bothersome neighbours, irritating relatives, and still manage to keep your sanity and your green fingers. With Imelda Staunton and Richard Hope. Director Olive Brill (5/15).

8.00 NEWS; Any Questions?. Nick Clarke is joined in Tonbridge Grammar School for Girls, Tonbridge, Kent, by panellists including the Rt Hon Donald Dewer MP, Secretary of State for Scotland, and Michael

8.45 Letter from America, Alistair Cooke with a slice of Americana. 9.00 NEWS; The Friday Play: Do the

SATELLITE AND CABLE

Shakespeare (9pm History

Channel), the subject of tonight's

profile, was one of the most talked-

about figures at this year's Oscars.

Not bad for a man who's been

dead for centuries. His literary

influence is examined this evening.

5.00 Futbol Mundial (1847). 5.30 Boxing -

Sports Centre (70441), 7.00 Super League

London vs St Helens (385151), 9.30 Boxing

- Big Fight Countdown (82286), 10.00 Sky Sports Centre (96828), 11.00 Hold the

Back Page (33996). 12.00 Boxing - Big

Fight Countdown (91107), 12,30 Premier

eration Raw (19697). 4.00 Friday Night

Football Gillingham vs St Helens (86861).

7.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (4921967). 7.30 Sky Sports Centre (4854557). 7.45 Racing

ing (9698880). 8.45 Sky Sports Centre

(8735286), 10.00 Formula Three Racing

19915). 9.00 The Rugby Club

(3330809). 10.30 Trans World Sport

4922828). 11.30 What a Weekend

(4328151). 12.00 International Cricket

(9525335). 3.30 Gillette World Sport Spe-

cial (3394002), 4.00 International Crickel

(1200625). 8.00 Snooker: British Open

Friday Night Football Gillingham vs St He-lens (2135229). 1.30 Hold the Back Page

3.30 Moto-plus (4112584), 4.00 Super

5.00 - 5.00 Watersports (2042565).

League London vs St Helens (6653107).

901565). 2.30 Sports Centre (2866942).

4319538). 11.00 Moto-plus (4342731) 11.30 Extreme Saling (3329793). 12.00

s (3558199). **8.15** Formula Threa Rad

Centre (49039). 2.00 World Wre

5.30 - 6.00 Boxing - Countdown

(92836)

SKY SPORTS 2

League Preview (50316), 1.00 Sky Sports

Big Fight Countdown (7373). 6.00 Sky

JAMES RAMPTON

PICK OF THE DAY

WES CRAVEN has an impeccable Courteoey Cox provide quality

record when it comes to horror support. Full of in jokes at the

phenomena. Who else could have expense of the genre, Scream

delivered the long-running success manages to sprinkle some laughs

jackpot again with Scream you want to cover your eyes.

Needful By Mahesh Dattani. When two families meet to discuss a possible marriage between their respective children, there is a clash of cultures. With Paul Bhattacharjee, Indira Varma, Bahser Patel and Jamila Massey.

Director Sally Avens. Harris. (R) 10.00 Tha World Tonight. 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Archangel. Robert Harris's thriller read in ten parts by Alan Howard. 5: Papu Rapava is dead, but his daughter has tha key to a garage on the outskirts of Moscow where Fluke Kelso believes Stalin's notebook lies hidden. 11.00 NEWS; Late Tackle. Eleanor Oldroyd presents an extended version of the weekly sports discussion and features programme. This week's show comes from Aintree ahead of tha Grand National 12.00 News.

12.30 The Late Book: Earthly Jovs. 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 5.30 World News. 5.35 Shipping Forecast. 5.40 Inshore Forecast. 5.45 Prayer for the Day.

5.47 Leisure Update. 5.56 - 6.00 Weather. **RADIO 4 LW** (198kHz) 9.45 - 10.00 An Act of Worship. 12.00 - 12.04 News Headlines; Shipping Forecast, 5.54 - 5.57

RADIO 5 LIVE (693, 909kHz MW) 6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 The Midday News. 1.00 Ian Payne.

Shipping Forecast.

SKY SPORTS 3

EUROSPORT

UK GOLD

10.00 Snooker (33282847), 5.00 Gilette

Moto-Plus (24077489). **6.00** Extreme Salling (24067002). **6.30** Inside the Senior

PGA Tour (24058354). 7.00 Friday Night

196498354), 10.00 World Wrestling Feder-

(80538). 10.30 Racing Line (48354). 11.00

Cycling (47199), 12.00 Tenns (9345809).

4.00 Cycling (82335) 5.30 Diving (58847) 7.00 Football (22880) 9.00 Box-

ing (88809), 10.00 Curing (60915), 12.00

7.00 Crossroads (3277606). 7.30 Neighbours (7627606). 7.55 EastEnders

(8633118), 8.30 The Bill (7290151), 9.00

(1913538). 10,30 Rhoda (7210915). 11,00

(48926002). 12.25 EastEnders (9408557).

(1790538), 2.55 The Bill (9864278), 3.25

The Bit (2432644), 3.55 EastEnders (9555660) 4.30 Rhoda (1968809), 5.00

All Creatures Great and Small (6043996).

6.00 Dynasty (5178441) 7.00 The Come

h298037: 7.40 The Cornedy Alternative: Last of the Summer Wine (7704422). 6.20

The Comedy Alternative Dad's Army

Dallas (9342170), 11.55 Neighbours

1.00 Bugs (5165977). 2.00 Dalas

The Bit (7214731) 9.30 The House of Eliott

Football Gillingham vs Bournemouth

ation Raw (43484557), 12.00 Close

7.30 Footbal (49199), 9.00 Football

Trial (82403), 12.30 Close.

World Sport Special (67414847), 5.30

4.00 Drive. 7.00 News Extra. 7.30 Alan Green's Sportsnight. Alan Green and his studio guests discuss the week's sporting issues and look ahead to tomorrow's Grand National

at Aintree. 10.00 Late Night Live, Insight and comment on the day's big issues with Brian Hayes, Including Papertalk. 10.30 Sport. 11.00 News. 11.15 The Financial World Tonight.

1.00 Up All Night. 5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

CLASSIC FM (100.0-101.9MHz FM)

6.00 Michael Mappin, 8.00 Henry Kely. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 Jamie Crick. 6.30 Newsnight. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Evening Concert. Beginning a season of concerts specially recorded for Classic FM. Stephen Drury (piano), Boston Philharmonic/Benjamin Zander. Ravel: Piano Concerto in G. Stravinsky: Ballet music 'Petrushka', Beethove Symphony No 5 in C minor, **11,00** Alan Mann, 2.00 Concerto, Antonio Pasculi: Grand Concerto on Themes trom Verdi's 1 vespri siciliani'. Philippe Magnan (oboe). Dupin: Fantasia on Arias from Verdi's 'La traviata'. Alexander Trostiansky (violin), I Musici de Montreal/Yuli Turovsky. 3.00 -6.00 Mark Griffiths.

VIRGIN RADIO (1215, 1197-1260kHz MW 105.8MHz FM) 6.30 The Breakfast Show. 9.30 Russ Williams. 1.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00 Harriet Scott, 7.00 Wheels of Steel 11.00 Janey Lee Grace. 2.00

 6.00 James Merritt. **WORLD SERVICE RADIO** (198kHz LW)

1.00 The World Today, 1.30 Science in Action. 1.55 My Century. 2.00 The World Today, 2.30 Maridian (Books), 3.00 The World Today. 3.30 People and Politics. 4.00 The World Today, 4-20 Sports Roundup. 4.30 World Business Report. 4.45 Insight. 5.00 The World Today. 5.30 6.00 Weekend.

TALK RADIO 6.00 Charlie Catchpole and Nick Ferrari. 9.00 Scott Chisholm and Sally James. 12.00 Motoring, 1.00 Anna Raeburn, 3.00 OK to Talk, 5.00 SportZone. 8.00 Nicky Home's Access All Areas, 10.00 James H

Reeve. 2.00 - 6.00 Mike Dickin.

(9711354). 9.00 The Thin Blue Line

(5190712), 9.40 Specially Selected Canned Carrott (5986977), 10.40 Puby Wax

Meets... Imelda Marcos (3625915). 11.40 The Bill (9643335). 12.10 The Bill (460126).

12.40 Dr Who Omnibus (1457768). 2.15

(8369584). 3.00 - 7.00 Shopping with

6.00 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (7669151).

6.30 Animal Rescue (1370267), 7.00 Pro-

8.30 Tiny Tales (6057625). 8.35 Tiny and

Crew (7428083), 8.50 Practical Parenting

9.30 Home and Away (2031731). 19.00

(9693996). 9.00 Special Bables (3460847)

The Jerry Springer Show (2531731). 10.50 Maury Povich (7374422). 11.40 The Heat Is On (71685828). 12.10 Through the Keyhole

36801286). 12.40 Rescue 911 (10885064).

(88507625). 1.40 Maury Povich (6732441).

2.30 Special Babies (1946083). 3.00 The

Michael Cole (6821557). 4.40 Home and

Away (56289460), 5.10 Through the Key-hola (51425644), 5.40 Can't Cook, Won't

Cook (9673422). 6.15 The Jerry Springer

(3444165). 7.35 Anmal Rescue (4075460).

8.00 Entertainment Now! [5897712]. 2.30

Maury Povich (1591064) 8.00 Film:

9.00 WCW Nitro on TNT (65737557)

5.00 Close.

11.35 WCW Thunder (42564731). 1.30

Take the High Ground (1953) (82548584).

3.15 The Walking Stick (1970) (70357565).

PARAMOUNT COMEDY CHANNEL

7.00 Clueless (9625). 7.30 Caroline in

(8373), a.30 Soin City (7880), 9.00 Drop

(833), 8.30 Spiri City (7680), 9.30 Unop the Dead Donkey (59809), 9.30 Whose Line is II Anyway? (80828), 10.00 Film: Arplanel (1980), (49118), 11.30 Police Squad (99064), 12.00 Late Night with

David Letterman (88294). 1.00 It's Garry

Shanding's Show (38316) 1.30 Nurses

(79107). 2.00 Almost Perfect (65565).

Costello (68652). 4.00 Close.

2.30 Tibs and Fibs (77300). 3.00 Mork and Mindy (45652). 3.30 Abbott &

the City (2064), 8.00 Mad about You

Kansas (1995) (6201480). 11.00 Sextasy! (3908606). 12.00 Close.

Show (9974462), 7.05 Rescue 911

Jerry Springer Show 4097915, 3.50

1.10 Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction

fessor Bubble (6162335), 7.25 Caillou

(1927373). 7.30 Polka Dol Shorts

(3217644), 7.55 Practical Parentino

(1239880), 9.00 Earney and Friends

Best of the Old Grey Whistle Test

Screenshop (2049774).

LIVING

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS JON SPEELMAN

AS IS traditional there was plenty of action over the Easter weekend with tournaments all over the country

Alongside the Redbus Knockout where I was playing in Southend there was the 43rd Southend Congress, which resulted in a six-way tie between Adrian Jackson, David John Sugden and Peter Sharp, all on 5.5/7

In the 52nd West of England Championships in Exmouth, the top score in the Open was made by Mike Bushill (Wood Green), though the title of West of England Champion and a qualifying place for this vear's British Championship went to local player Neil Crickmore, a former British Under-18 champion.

The 25th Surrey Congress at Sutton resulted in victory for Andrew Webster with 6.5/7 ahead of Andrew Kinsman on 6 and Richard Bates and Simon Williams on 5.5; the Premier section (under 170) was won by 10-year-old Murugan Thiruchelvam on 6/7.

With Arkell and Hebden away at the French League and Lalic and Plaskett in Southend - at which only the slow games counted for Grand Prix purposes - there was little change in the Onyx Grand Prix leaderboard which currently stands at Arkell | 160.5/200), Lalic (137.5), Plaskett (136.7), Gormally (134.5), Andrew ledger (129.4) and Hebden (125.5); though Grand Prix supremo Leonard Barden tells me that Lalic, who has a high percentage in the events be's so far played, is currently best placed to take the title.

The hurly-hurly of weekeod tournament play can he conducive to some admirably chaotic chess, such as this game played not last weekend but three weekends ago at the 7th Doncaster Congress in which 20 Nxd7 fxe3!

the top section Stars Barred section for players up to 220 was won by Lawreoce Cooper

In the opening. White usually plays 4.d5 - instead he plotted to win a pawn with 8.Bxb8 though Black got huge compensation with the two hishops and a hig centre.

If 19.hxg3 fxg3 20.Ng4 Qh4 Ledger, Andrew Ledger, Nick Pert, 21 Rfd1 Kh8! (better than 21...e5 22.Nf6+! Qxf6 23.Qxd5+ Kh8 24.Nd2 en route to f1) threatening ...h5 yields a very dangerous attack.

With 20.Nxd7!? - rather than 20.Ng4 Qh4 - White sacrificed his queen for considerable materal though his king remained under fire. 24...Rxf8 was possible and if 25.f4? Rxf4! but it was only with 27._exf3? that Black went badly wrong; instead 27...Rxf8! 28.fxe4 (or 28.f4 Rxf4 29.Rf1 Rh4D Of2+ 29 Kh2 Rf4 30 Kh3 Rf6 is winning. At the end Black lost on time though his position was indefensible, anyway.

White: Gary Hinchcliffe Black: J.Mutton Doncaster Stars Barred 1999 Trompowsky

1.d4 Nf6 21.g3 Nxd4 2.Bg5 Ne4 3.Bf4 c5 23.Nc2 e4 4.c3 cxd4 5.Qxd4 d5 6.Bxb8 Rxb8 7.Qxa7 e6 8.e3 Bd7 9.Qd4 f6 10.Nd2 Bc5 11.Qd3 f5 12.Ngf3 b5 13.Be2 0-0 14.0-0 Qf6 15.Nb3 Bd6 16.Qd4 Qh6

24.Nxf8 Pxg3!? 25.hxg3 Qh3 26.Nxe3 Qxg3+ 27.Ng2 exf3? 28.Bxf3 Qxf3 29.Rft Qg4 30.Rf4 Qg5 31.Raf1 h5 32.Ne6 Qg6 33_Nd4 Ra8 34.a3 Rb8 35.Nf5 Kh7 36.Nfh4 Qb6+ 37.Kh1 Rb7 38.Rf5 g6 39.Rf6 Black resigns

22.Nxd4 e5

BRIDGE

17.Ne5 f4

18.f3 Ng3

19.Rfe1 Nf5

THREE NO-TRUMPS had all the appearance of a hopeless contract on this deal, but quick thinking by declarer persuaded each defender in turn to make critical mistakes.

South opened 1NT (12-14 points), and North raised directly to game. West led \(\tau2\) against 3NT and, even if the defenders had only three heart tricks to come, there were still two missing aces as well. Declarer played low from dummy and, after East had taken his ace, he had his first inspiration. He iropped ♥Q under the ace! The play so far had marked West with TK, so the heart suit was still

guarded. The play of the queen created the firm impression in East's mind that South had started with ♥KQ doubleton. Fearing that a continued attack in hearts might prove too slow, East looked for tricks elsewhere and switched to \$5. South played his king, which won, but he was still not out of the woods for tricks were needed in both black suits

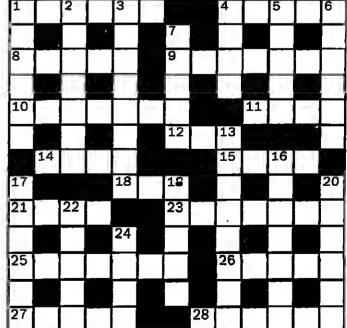
Now came South's second good idea – he led ◆J from hand. It was

Love all; dealer South North **◆**K52 ♥J83 ♦AKJ7 +432 West East +A 643 ♠1097 ♥K1072 ♥A965 ♦84 ♦953 **4986** ♣A75 South **∳QJ**8 ♥Q4 ♦Q 10 6 2 **♣**K Q J 10

perhaps rather naively that declarer was planning to take a finesse in spades and that his partner would be able to win with his supposed queen, he played low. With the much-needed spade trick in the bag, declarer switched his attack to clubs and it was all over. The defenders were now restricted to the four top winners with which they had started - it was now too late for them to establish and enjoy West's turn to slip up - assuming, their third trick in hearts.

CONCISE CROSSWORD

No.3892 Friday 9 April



REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

BBC1 N IRELAND As BBC1 LONDON except: 6.30 Newsine 6.30 (996). BBC1 SCOTLAND

As BBC1 LONDON except: 12.25 An Doingealan 9497915). 12.30 Mire Mara (74528248). 12.45 Derman Allaidh Mera (74528248), 12.45 Damhan Allaidh (76031002), 6.00 News (644), 6.30 Re-porting Scotland; Weather (996), 10.20 Friday Sportscene (703248), 10.50 Men Behaving Badiy (408083), 11.20 Golf-the Masters (510248), 12.30 Film: Kld-nepped (148039), 2.05 Joins BBC News 24 (65751316).

BBC1 WALES As BBC1 LONDON except: 6.30 Wales Today (996) ANGLIA

As Cariton except: 10.30 Film: comedy in which an urban couple seel peace in the countryside, only to find that their new neighbours are bizarra eccentrics. With Chevy Chase (49383151). 12.15 Anglia News and Weather (7256335). 12.55 Shortland Street 1946267), 1.30 Lie Detector (16346793). 1.55 The Jerry Springer Show (5204151) 2.40 ITV News Headines (5901002). 3.45 Anglia News and Weather

(5900373). 5.30 Off the Beaten Track (199), 6.00 Anglia News (712), 11.20 Anglia News and Weather (734286), 11.35 Wonderful You (306422), 12.35 ITV at the Belfort Festival (6631381), 135 ClubaVision (6766132). 2.15 The Haumtad Fishtank (67720). 2.45 Short Story Cinema (1245923). 3.25 Trisha (2370316). 4.25 Soundtrax (72887294). 4.45 (TV Nightscreen (25159768). 5.00 Coronation Street (17768).

CENTRAL As Cariton except: 12.20 Central News and Weather (9474064), 12.55 Lie Detector (2855880), 2.10 Wish You Were Here...? (89009267), 5.30 Surprise Gardeners (199), 6.00 Central News and Weather (772), **11.20** Central News and Weather (282737), **11.30** Late Tackle (93538), **3.50** Jobfinder (6501381), **5.20** Asian Éye (9638478).

HTV WALES Ae Carlton except: 10.30 Film: Furny Farm (4939315), 12.45 HTV News (7256335), 12.55 Stepping the World (1946267), 1.30 Lie Detector World (1945;27). 1.35 The Jerry Springer Show (520451), 3.10 ITV News Head-lines (5901002). 3.15 HTV News (5900373), 5.30 Quiz Challenge (199). **8.00** HTV News (712). **11.20** HTV News (734286). **11.35** Wonderful You (306422). **12.35** We Can Work it Out (2345861). **1.05** Public Morals (1516958). **1.35** Cluba Vision (6768132). **2.15** The Haunted Fishtank (67720). 2.45 Short Story Cinema (1245923). 3.25 Trisha (2370316). 4.25 Soundtrax (72887294). 4.45 ITV Nightscreen (25159788). 5.00 Coronation Street (17768).

HTV WEST As HTV Wales excapt: 1245 HTV News and Weather (7256335). 12.55 Getaways (1946267). 5.30 Sportsweek (199). 12.35 ITV at the Belfort Festival MERIDIAN As Cariton except: 10.30 Film

Funny Farm (49393151). 12.15 Meridian News and Weather (7258335). 12.55 News and Street (1946267). 1.30 Lie Detector (16346793). 1.55 The Jerry Springer Show (5204151). 3.10 ITV News Headlines (5901002). 3.15 Meridian News and Weather (5900373), 5.00 Lie Detector (8335), 5.26 The Listings (7975408), 5.30 Streetwise (199), 6.00 Meridian Tonight (712), 11.20 Mendan News and Weather (734286), 11.35 Wonderful You (306422). 12.35 ITV at

the Bettort Festival (6631381). 1.35 ClubaVision (6766132) 2.15 The Haunt-ed Fishtank (87720). 2.45 Short Story Cinema (1245923). 3.25 Trisha (2370316). 4.25 Soundirax (72887294). 4.45 ITV Nightscreen (25159768) 5.00 Freescreen (17768). WESTCOUNTRY

As Carlton axcept: 10.30 Film: Funny Farm (49393151) 12.15 West-country News (7256335) 12.27 Illuminations (9482083) 12.55 Westcountry Lunchtime Live (2855880) 3.10 ITV News Headlines (5901002). 3.15 West-country News (5900373) 5.30 West-country Weekend (199). 6.00 Westcountry Live (712) 11.20 Westcountry News (282737) 11.30 Firm The Couch Trip (69164977). 1.35 ClubaVision (6766132) 2.15 The Haunied Fishlank (67720). 2.45 Shori Story Cinema (1245923) 3.25 Trisha (23703%), 4.25 Soundhax (72887294). 4.45 ITV Nightscreen (25159788). 5.00

YORKSHIRE As Carlton except: 10.30 Film Funny Farm (49393151) 12.15 Calendar News and Wealthe (7256335), 12.55 Lie Delector (2855880) 2.10 Emmerdale

(89009267) 5.30 Tonight (452335). 5.55 Calendai (9274-1), 11.20 Cale News and Weather (282737), 11.30 Wonderful You (93538) TYNE TEES

As Yorkshire except: 12.15 North East News and Weather (7256335). 5.30 North East Tonight (16101). 11.20 North East News and Weather (282737). As Channal 4 except: 12.00 Daw-

son's Creek (93470712). 1.00 Planed Plam (69006606) 1.30 The Three Stooges (98760199) 1.50 Film: Tha Big Trees (95338557) 4.30 Ricki Lake (99497151). 5.00 Planed Plant (9949/151) 5.00 Planed Plant (4879064) 5.30 Countdown (99411731). 6.00 Newyddion (49945151). 6.10 Heno (65151373) 6.50 Pobol y Cwm (84301248). 7.20 Y Clwb Rygbi [84301248], 7.20 Y Clwb Hygbi [23884538], 9.45 Newyddon (94013462). 9.45 Ramsay's Bolling Point (95463903), 10.45 Brookside (51286847). 10.50 Frasier (81224083), 11.20 So Graham Norton (87623151) 12.00 TFI Friday (42463519), 1.10 Pulp (64018126) 1.25 Flava (83059403), 2.00 Yide (24730738) Squad |21647316] 3.00 Vids |24739738) 3.30 Film: Howing VI: Tha Freaks |59709687] 5.15 Close

ACROSS

Greenmantle author (6) Approaches (5) Bury (5) Applause (7)

10 Internal secretion (7) 11 Territorial detachment (4) 12 British rule in India (3) .

14 Academic administrator (4) 15 System (4)

18 Age (3) 21 Vestments (4) 23 Heated cooking surface(7) 25 Long-necked ruminant (7)

26 Copious (5) 27 Ingress (5)

28 Engraved (6)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword: ACROSS: 1 Somme, 4 Burly (Sombrely), 10 Rubbish, 11 Tense, 12 Pewit, 13 Surgery, 15 Ever, 17 Fauna, 19 Guano, 22 Meek, 25 Receipt, 27 Upset, 29 Twice, 30 Erelong, 31 Unity, 32 Being, DOWN: 2 Ox bow, 3 Moisten, 5 Utter, 6 Lantern, 7 Traps, 8 Phase, 9 Beryl, 14 Urge, 18 Vamp, 18 Auction, 20 Ukulele, 21 Grate, 23 Ether, 24 Stags, 26 In-

DOWN

13

16

1 Plant disease (6)

Tidy (4)

Wrong (5)

Gleeful (8)

19 Concur (5)

24 Chancy (4)

20 Story (6)

22 Cap (5)

Detailed (2-5)

Inner circle (7)

Carried by planes (8)

Separate (poet.) (6)

Concealment (5)

Flock of geese (6)

EVERNO SERVAP BAND TREE COST

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TELEVISION REVIEW CONCHIE PETER

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In Making It (BBC2)

In Making It (BBC2)

In Jease students gave all)

answers as Tom Dixor

designer at Habitat, trangraduate show for talent,
what aboul function—do you
these as things to eat off?

designer was asked about
telicate—looking set of soap—for the permitted of the permitted of

Robert Hands is rucul

COMEDY IS PARAMOUNT

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T

SITCOM (830pm 9BC1) The concluding part of this Onnibus trilogy brings us up to the present and it's in the 1980s and 1990s that the search for liberatic coherence lucks most shaky. What's the link hetween The Young Ones right and Only Rools and Horses, for example, or Yes, Minister, Absolutely Robinous, and Blackadder? This is on authoritative overview, all the same, and it's oice to see the writers emerge blinking into the limelight. Ben Elton and Rik Mayall recount the birth of "alternative" comedy, while Marks and Gran think we might

WALDEN ON VILLAINE (7.30pm BBC2, nght) With Slobodan Milosevic taking his place in the gallery of demons, a timely look at some of history's other leading villains, a timely look at some of history's other leading villains, a the Führer is a well-examined historical phenomenon, and Walden says that he doesn't just want to retell the familiar Walden says that he doesn't just want to retell the familiar slory of his rise and fall. His argument ruos that Hitler was story of his rise and fall. His argument ruos that Hitler was selfther a puppet of the army or big business, nor a reflection of the German cheracter in a needful hour. Instead, for all his folly and evil, Hitler was an "mnovative, far-sighted his folly and evil, Hitler was an "nnovative, far-sighted tactician – the greatest propagandist of the century".

DOCUMENTARY OF THE DAY

BBC

9.00 Kilroy (S) (T) (8190002). 9.45 Style Challenge (R) (S) (8834422). 10.40 The Venesea Show (924165). (S) (8834422). 10.40 The Venesea Show (924165). 10.55 News; Regional News; Weather (T) (9142189). 11.00 Change That (S) (8129248). 11.25 Can't Cook. Won't Cook (S) (T) (8122335). 11.55 News; Regional News; Weather (T) (4342096). 12.00 Going for a Song (S) (6130985). 12.25 Wipeout (S) (7865070). 12.50 The Weather Show (S) (T) (76029267). 1.00 News; Weather (85557). 1.30 Regional News and Weather (S8189712). 1.40 Neighboure (S) (T) (18357809). 2.05 Tonelde (R) (1245267). 2.55 Through the Keyhole (S) (T) (2204422).

Children's SSC: Smart on the Road (S) (T) (6830354). 3.40 Helpl II's the Hair Sear Bunch (R) (S) (743606). 4.00 Rugrats (R) (S) (T) (5925354). 4.15 Get Your Own Stack (S) (7415847). 4.35 The Maek (S) (7639151). 5.00 Newsround (S) (T) (5878248). 5.10 Sive

(7639151). **5.00** Newsro Peter (S) (T) (2439847).

Neighbours, Joels mother fine know why she was the last to fin accident. Not quite the last, you her finelly arrivse but wants to the out about the st to find out about the st, you say (S) (T) (486538).

6.00 News| Weether (T) (844)

10 S.30 Regionel News. And weather (T) (996

7.00 Weakend Wstchdog with Anne Robinson (S) (T) (6731).

7.30 Top of the Pops. Mr Oizo's rather wonderful "Flat geat" is etil at number one. Plus, New Radicels (how silly can you look in a golfing hat?), Mariah Carey, Another Level, Catatonie and Reef (S) (T) (880).

5.00 Ground Force. Alan Titchmareh and team check up on another recent makeover. This one was a gazebo project undertaken in Milton Keynes (S) (T) (2151).

5.30 The Suildera. Liz and Mark are wondering when their extension will ever be tinished. Viewers of this docu-soap will know the feeling (S) (T) (1286).

200

9.0 Nawsj Regional News; Weather (T) (9422)

10 9,30 British Sitcom. The Ornibus trilogy on the Sritish sitcom. The Ornibus trilogy on the Sritish sitcom reaches its conclusion. Sae Documentery of the Day, below (S) (T) (151354).

Galf - the Mestere. Steve Rider introduces further coverage from the second round of the 83rd US Mestere from Augusta National, Georgia (S) (2556793).

11.30 IIIM Kidnepped (8obby Roth 1995 US). The amiable Dabney Coleman is cast against type as a se abductor of rich children in the above-per cat-and-mothriller directed by the talented 8obby Roth (S) (86809) 1.00 Illid Plan of Alleck (Fred Welton Lon) Anderson's greatest role was her ep relationship with Burt Reynolds. On scree well-favoured. This trash ease her being i

BBC2

O Children's SBC: The Silver 9ruml 7.35 Top Cet (R) (8149248). 5.00 Ti (5482480). 5.25 9urled Treasure (R) The Really Wild Show (R) (S) (93876 and the Ghost Chasers (R) (7188248 9odles (R) (S) (8836880). 10.00 Tel

Henry Williamson's 1920s wildlife novel brought to the screen, with e script co-written by Garald Durrell. The tale (an other looks for his male) meanders somewhat amid the flore and feuna of the Devon countryside, but is none the worse for that (84809).

12.00 Wildlite Showcese (R) (S) (245). 12.30 Working Lunch (5935), 1.00 Johnson and Friends (R) (S) (38331488). 1.10 The Leisure Hour (R) (S) (1933783).

8.45 Electric Circus (S) (T) (588489).

7.00 The Night Befare the Netlanel. Clere Baiding, Jim McGrath and Angus Loughran set the ecene for tomorrow's 152nd Martell Grand National (S) (4373).

9.30 Oardsnere' World. Pippe Greenwood sows carrots, persnipa and caulillowere in her orgenic kitchen garden (S) (T) (9828).

9.00 Golf - the Masters. Steva Rider introducas live coverage from the second round et the Augusta National, Georgia. Commentary by Peter Alliss, Alex Hey and Howard Clark (S) (8793).

10.30 Newsnight. Martha Keemey is in the chair (184002).

The usual maliculous Merchant-Ivory coetume tere, the usual maliculous Merchant-Ivory coetume tere, chroniciling Thomas Jefferson's years as ambassador to pre-revolutionary France and his love atfair with hie helf pre-productionary France and his love atfair with hie helf slater's sleve, can't hide a certain aridity at the centre of Ruth Prawer Jhabvala's script. With Nick Noite, Greta Scacchi, Simon Callow and Thandle Newton (69760335)

2.40 Recing from Aintree. Clara Salding and Richard Pitman introduce the 2.35, 3.10, 3.45 and 4.20pm reces (S) (83807480).

4.55 Eather (S) (9416083). 5.30 Whose House? (S) (373)

S.00 The Simpsone. A burgiar strikee in Springiteid (R) (S) (T) (403335).

5.20 The Simpsons. 9art becomes an overnight sensation as Krusty the Clown's assistant (R) (S) (T) (407:51).

7.30 CHOIR waiden on Villains. 9/lan Walden delivers another round of his unscripted, straight-to-camere talke, beginning with Adolf Hiller. See History Programme of the Day, below (S) (T) (422).

5.00 As the Crow Files. Still trudging from Edinburgh to London, Janet Street-Porter reaches Yorkshire and talks to Vic Reeves (who cropped up in her first series) (3903)

00.00

10.30 Piaesure Islend. More from the grim Jamaichu holiday resort of Hedoniem II. Two Mancunian fadis arrive looking for romance. Surely some mistake (1) (38354).

11.20 1500 ITV Nightly News; Weather (T) (126118).

US), Calitornian policewomen Meiase Gilbert and Mei
Harris decide to do something about eexual harossment
at work. From a true story, natch (S) (T) (529213). Club@Ylelon (S) (7084584). 2.95 90x Oltico America (4276958), 3.20 The Haunted Fishtank (82060881). 3.48 Triena (918403). To 445am.

12.20 Your Weet 1.25 Lie D (T) (2

3.20 Chil

5.30 Boot Sele Challenge (A) (S) (199).

7.00 Emmerdale. BitI makes a move on Kathy, which is a bit like a puopy playing with a piranha, and Zoe falle for Chris's new employee (S) (T) (8199).

Caranetian Street. Leanne goes for en abortion Mike goes to the rag-trade ball (S) (T) (248).

7,30

5.00 Parking Wers. The rest of ITV's evening is taken up by fly-on-the-wall documentaries, with a break for repeat Chris Tarrant. First, some anary people (S) (T) (7847).

5.30 Matarway Life. Bad driving (T) (6354).

9.00 Bawere – Shopliffere et Work. Closed-circuit lelevision footage of shoplitters - 60 minutes of tt. See you down the pub (S) (T) (6064).

Tarrent on TV. In place of the prematurely exed Mr and Mrs with Julien Clery (R) (T) (29806).

12,30 Londan Tonight (T) (282737). 11.30 Nighikie (93538).

HISTORY PROGRAMME OF THE DAY

6.00 OMTV (2033712).
9.25 Childran'e ITV: Tiny Toon Adventurea (T) (7103557).
9.50 The Fartaetic Voyages of Sinbed the Saltor (7129538), 10.15 Bugs Bunny (7474151), 10.25 ITV News Headlinea (T) (2219354).

Children'e ITV: Mopatop's Shop (5998538). 3.30 Timbucitoo (4274731). 3.35 Animal Stories (5754915). 3.45 Giggly Bitzl (T) (5734151). 4.00 Pump It Up (T) (335). 4.30 The Mystic Knights of Tir Na Nog (T) (847). 5.00 Lie Detector (T) (8335).

6.00 London Tonight. Regional newe update for the cepital and the South-East (T) (7/2).

6.30 ITV Evening Naws | Waether (T) (444).

5.00 Trading Up. Match the cer with the owner end win a nicer aet of wheels. Cleudia Winklemsn has further details (T) (5489).

9.30

9.00 Friends. "The One with the Evil Orthodonlist". Sorry, that should read. "The Very Old One with the Evil Orthodonlist" (R) (S) (T) (5460).

10.30 So Orehom Nortan (Ti (13215t)

11.09 King of the Hill (217064), 11.40 TFI Friday (808915). 12.50 Fuln (2930403), 1.05 Finva (371-1039), 1.40 Tho Mod Squad (3890667), 2.40 Vids (5861045).

3.10 Idia Howling VI - The Freake (Hope Perotlo 1991 UK/US). One of a siring of sequels in this disconnected series of lycenthropic tales has Ray Bradburyesque overtones and a werewolf as the loro. The lupine one arrives in an Arizono desert town just ahead of a travelling circue manned by evil monsters (T) (488229). To 4.50am. Carlton

10.30 IIIIM Funny Farm (George Roy Hill 1988 US).

New York City eportewriter Chevy Chase finds the countryeide isn't all that it's cracked up to be Neither, ales, was this comedy (S) (67024985).

ur Shaut (9474084). 12.30 ITV Lunchtime News: ether (2887489). 12.55 London Today (1) (2855880). 5 The Jerry Springer Show (5) (T) (4036996). 2.10 Detector (T) (89008267). 2.40 Wheel of Fortune (5) (2200605). 3.10 ITV News Headlines (T) (6946915).

3.30

5.00 TFI Fridey. Chris Evene chets with eifin Loaded covergirl Gall Porter, Elvis Costello and Cerye Irom Catatonile, while Suede, Electronic and Ben Folde Five provide the dittlee (S) (52422).

7.00 Channal 4 News| Weather. Including headlines at 7.30pm (T) (95/828)

7.50 Davetalls. Sarrister Eugene Grant QC gives his viewe on the Good Friday Agreement (573246).

Srookeldo. Lindsey comes tace to lace with her past, while Greg feels rejected by Susannah (SI (T) (4996).

9.30 Smack the Pony. More hit-ant-miss (more miss than hit last week) sketches with Flona Allen, Doon Mackichan and Sally Phillips (S) (T) (64267).

Fraeler. Niles and Frasier toth have Vntentine's Duy calemitles (S) (T) (27248).

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THE FRIDAY REVIEW

7.00 OO The Sig Sreakfeel (S) (48880), 9.00 The Bigger greaklast (39083), 5.30 Bigger greekfast: Sam and Mex (73915), 10.00 Bigger greaklast: Eeris, Indiana (37286), 10.30 Bigger Breaklast: Catdog (3124084), 10.45 Bigger greaklast: Boy Meets World (576083), 11.45 Bigger greaklast: Moesha (573988), 11.45 The giggar greakfast (2473712), 12.00 Sesame Street (T) (59847), 12.30 Bewliched (R) (T) (77731), 1.00 Pei Rescue (58287), 1.30 The Three Slooges (16344335).

(R) (S) (T) (2651489). 7.30 Milkshekel (S) (2649847).
7.35 Dappledown Farm (R) (4083460). 8.00 Alvin end the Chipmunks (R) (684373). 9.30 Witchworld (S) (6642064). 9.00 Nancy Lam (R) (S) (T) (686644). 9.30 The Opreh Winfrey Show (R) (686344). 10.20 Sunset Beach (S) (T) (4256915). 11.10 Leeza (R) (S) (3911880). 12.00 5 News at Noon (S) (T) (8646880). 12.30 Family Allalis (S) (T) (7532539). 1.00 The Roseanne Show (S) (2487480). 2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (S) (2154977). 2.30 Good Afternoon (S) (8747847).

UK). Otherwise known as *i Spy, You Spy, Our Man in Marrekesh*, or (my lavourite), Beng Beng*i* Beng. Beng. Beng. Beng. Beng. Beng. Marrekesh, this low-budget spy spool stars Tony Randall as an American caught up in esplonega The likes of Terry-Thomas, Wilfrid Hyde White and John La Mescurier help to pass the time (21792002).

3,30

Giber Cates 1988 US). Golden Girls star Bea Arthur tands some welcome acidity to this romantic contedy in which she plays e widowed driving instructor encouraged by her friends to seek out new male comparions. Enter her old boytrland from medical school days, Richard Kiley (2914335).

Collectors' Lo1 (T) (170). 4.00 Fifteen to One (R) (S) (T) (977). 4.30 Countdown (S) (T) (766318). 4.55 Rickl Lake (S) (T) (940151). 5.30 Pet Rescue (S) (T) (441).

5.20 5 Newe (59271489). **5.25** Ruesell Grant's Postcerds (59263460). **5.30** 100 Per Ceni (S) (6141844). 6.00 5 News and Sport (S) (T) (6148557)

5.30 Family Affairs. Cliva pute his sexuality to the test apparently (S) (T) (6138809).

7.00 Knight Rider. The future Baywatch ster and his loquations motor pursua an elusive counterfeller (2:58793).

7.30 Anime! Mervels. Wildiffs documentary about the common garden snall, "Helix asperse" to its friende, end some of its Australian cousine (S) (1) (6128793).

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9.00 Wes II Good for You? Two different sets of holidaymakers hit Lanzarote. Alisa Greenheigh heers

Nick's Quest. Nick Baker tinds out how the elephants of Queen Elizabath National Park in Ugande survived their tales (S) (216744t). the lvory trade (S) (T) (2153248)

5.30

US) ...lles aprility - The perfect atate of mind for this stilly Fatel Attraction-style yorn about a college kid working as a swimming coach during his summer hole. Seduced and then cost off by a wealthy societite employer, he takes rejection badly (49291975).

لفكذا من الموصل

9.00

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11.50 1311/1 Eloctre (Julian Gmitt 1995 US). Poin twaddio for lovars of surgically enhanced breaete (S) (7124002). 10.50 Lexx - the Dark Zone Stories. The whacky sci-fi characters meet a hologram (R) (S) (3804249).

3.39 1.30 IIIM The Homecoming (Petor Holl 1973 UK).
Halls forrific adaptation of Harold Pintor's play stats
Michael Jayston as the academic returning from America
to his epiteful north London family. With Cyrll Cusack,
tan Holm and, most memorably, Paul Roger's (89151756). TELL VISION CONTOCT 1962 UKJ. With Jess Conrad as a singing burglar (40422565). To 4.40em.
TELL VISION COUNTS BY GERMAND GLARKE

THE SPIRAL STAIRCASE (130am BBC2) Great fun and truly frightening, this guthic hurrar gern from 1940 stars n wide-eyed Dorothy McGuire ns the mute scrving girl meneced by a scrial killer with a thing about disubled women. Setting it in the turn-of-the-century New England mansion belonging to McGuire's gruff, hed-ridden employer (an Oscar-nominated Ethel Barrymore, right), directar Rohert Siodmak brings his expressionist eye, mischievous sense of lumour and refreshingly brisk style to Iluis inanging shutters and stormy nights need look no further. FILM OF THE DAY



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